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NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

Police shoot siege girl

Police have admitted shooting and seriously wounding a 16-year-old girl as they tried to rescue her from a man armed with a shotgun after a Birmingham flat siege.

The man was using Gail Kinchen as a shield, as he exchanged fire with police in a bid to escape.

West Midlands police said a medical examination showed her injuries were not caused by a shotgun, as first thought, but apparently by shots fired by police as they tried to force their way into the flat.

A 31-year-old unemployed man appeared before Birmingham magistrates accused of attempting to murder Mr. James Wood, of Strichley, Birmingham.

Gas halts match

England's opening European championship match against Belgium in Turin was stopped for six minutes when goalkeeper Ray Clemence was overcome by police fear gas after English fans attacked Italians. The result was 1-1.

Iran hostage plan

A plan was worked out for negotiating the release of the American hostages when American Ambassador Bruno Kreisky met Iranian Foreign Minister Sadegh Otabadeh in Oslo, the Chancellor said.

'Julie' cash

The House of Lords ruled that court orders made against members of the 'Operation Julie' drug gang to forfeit the proceeds from their crimes were unlawful. But it refused to order the Director of Public Prosecutions to give seized assets back to the gang.

Cabinet resigns

The Japanese cabinet resigned following the sudden death of Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira, but Ministers will stay at their posts until after the general election on June 22. Back Page; Feature; Page 20.

Sir Billy dies

Sir Billy Butlin, millionaire founder of Britain's first holiday camp chain, died at his Jersey home, aged 80, after a long illness.

Soviets killed

Four Soviet soldiers were reported to have been killed in Kabul as fighting continued between rebels and the Soviet army in the Paghman mountains northwest of the Afghan capital. Page 4.

Yachtsman found

A British competitor in the Observer Single-handed Trans-Atlantic Yacht Race was spotted in his life raft by an RAF Nimrod 1200 miles from Land's End. RAF planes were still looking for two yachts which have been out of contact with race organisers for some time.

Coming home

The final draft of Gilbert White's classic 'The Natural History of Selborne' has been bought from an American collector for £100,000 by the Gilbert White Museum in the Hampshire village. Page 8.

French leave

France decided to withdraw 60 gendarmes sent to the New Hebrides on Wednesday only a day after Britain decided to send 200 marines. Page 4.

Briefly . . .

Two men got away with £30,000 in a raid on a Bank of Ireland branch in Holloway, London. Two ospreys have hatched at Loch Garten, Speyside.

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)

RISERS	
Execut. 134pc 1982	213 + 5
Execut. 134pc 1981	204 + 1
Treas. 134pc 1982	204 + 1
Applied Computer T	335 + 10
Assoc. News	305 + 15
Bank of Scotland	265 + 12
Bank of Wales	111 + 4
Barratt Devs.	181 + 9
Barratt (H.P.)	81 + 11
Carr's Milling	56 + 4
Cont. Stationery	671 + 21
Coral Leisure	101 + 20
Dawson Intl.	690 + 20
De La Rue	285 + 10
Farnell Elec.	225 + 4
GEI Intl.	239 + 4
GKN	418 + 12
Hambros	94 + 4
EMI Saml.	319 + 7
Land Securities	205 + 22
Lee Cooper	286 + 12
Metal Box	286 + 12
FALLS	
Pidington	165 - 6
Polly Peck	165 - 6
Redland	165 - 6
Satchi and Satchi	183 - 11
SGS	166 - 6
Sharna Ware	320 + 7
Strand. Tele. Cables	123 + 9
UKG	47 + 4
Valor	428 + 16
Arco Energy	228 + 26
Barkley Expl.	183 + 9
Shikole	985 + 75
General Mining	136 + 10
Samantha Explor.	95 + 8
Samson Exploration	320 + 20
Tronoh	368 - 4
BP	180 - 20
Geovir Int.	172 - 6
Poseidon	239 - 11
Western Mining	239 - 11

Schmidt opens bid for more equality in EEC payments

BY JOHN WYLES IN VENICE

CHANCELLOR Helmut Schmidt of West Germany yesterday launched his attempt to edge the EEC towards restructuring its budget so that no single member state will continue paying vastly more to Brussels than the others.

Herr Schmidt's move came at the EEC heads of government summit in Venice. Recognising that such a fundamental reform touches sensitive political issues including the Common Agricultural Policy and, possibly, enlargement of the Community, his approach was low key and developed initially in a lunch conversation with President Giscard d'Estaing of France and then at a session with Mrs. Margaret Thatcher.

After their last two bruising encounters in Luxembourg and Dublin over the UK's demands for cuts in its payments to the Community, the EEC leaders were determined to take advantage of last month's settlement of this row to put their relations back on a more tranquil footing.

But in an effort to ease sharp disagreements at official level, the heads of government spent 90 minutes discussing the declaration on the Middle East issue today. In the political directors' working group, France was said to be resisting attempts to weaken the EEC position which seemed to be emerging last week, which pointed to a statement urging the involvement of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation in negotiations on a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement.

But yesterday, West Germany wanted to limit the reference to a simple requirement that the PLO accept the terms of UN resolutions 242 and 338, which refer to Israel's right to exist with secure borders.

These differences point to varying susceptibility to strong American pressure against any EEC statement which might undermine U.S. efforts to restart the Camp David talks on Palestinian autonomy.

The UK, which last week favoured a declaration calling for the inclusion of the PLO in any negotiations, was among those which appeared to be softening their positions last night.

On the thorny EEC budget question, it was not clear whether the government leaders would confine themselves to private discussions or would make a public statement. Chancellor Schmidt wants agreement on an end of 1981 deadline for settling the question, possibly on the basis of limiting each member state's payments to and receipts from the EEC and through effective

EEC FEARS TRADE WAR

COMMON MARKET government leaders are aiming to present a coherent and unified position on trade at the seven-power western summit meeting in Venice later this month.

The EEC leaders, meeting this week in the European Council, are concerned that protectionist trade measures within the Community could trigger a damaging trade war involving Japan and the U.S. Back Page.

Iford plans to close three Essex factories

BY IAN RODGER

IFORD, the financially troubled photographic film and printer manufacturer, plans to close three factories in Essex and transfer black-and-white film production to its remaining factory in Cheshire.

The company, owned by the Ciba-Geigy, the Swiss chemical group, said yesterday it was also withdrawing from the manufacture of X-ray and micro-film production.

But it would invest £30m in the next three-and-a-half years to increase the capacity and quality of its black-and-white film and paper production in the UK.

The restructuring proposal, part of a plan involving Ciba-Geigy photographic production in France and Switzerland, would result in about 2,500 lost jobs at Essex, but create 850 jobs at Mobberley, Cheshire, where 550 are employed.

The group will continue to manufacture black-and-white paper at Lyons, France, and

Europcar bid to be probed

BY ARTHUR SANDLES

THE £22m bid by Europcar for the car rental activities of Godfrey Davis is being referred to the Monopolies Commission. Europcar belongs to Renault, the State-owned French car company.

The commission has six months to report on a deal which would give the French company control of Britain's largest car rental company and one which traditionally buys Ford cars.

Although Whitehall is anxious to play down suggestions that the reference is a reprisal against French attitudes towards

recent British takeover moves in France there is little doubt that many will see it in this light.

The Department of Trade said last night the references did not mean it was opposed to the takeover, but it wished to have the implications examined.

Godfrey Davis' car rental fleet last year reached a peak of 8,500 cars in Britain, fewer than rivals Hertz and Avis achieved, but because of the all-year nature of its business it is probably bigger than these American giants in the UK market. Europcar, with only 463 vehicles at

most, is relatively small in the British market.

The DoT is said to be concerned about the prospect of the first major piece of vertical integration in the British market in which a car renter would be owned by a large car maker. Europcar, however, like most other rental companies in the UK, is a heavy buyer of Ford, at present Renaults are in the minority in its fleet.

The Hertz car rental operator considered a counter-bid for Europcar.

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Consett steel closure date set

BY ALAN PIKE

THE BRITISH Steel Corporation yesterday took the last major risk of confrontation over its big redundancy programme and told union leaders at the Consett Plant in Co. Durham to close by the end of September with the loss of nearly 4,000 jobs.

If the Consett workers go quietly, the corporation will be set to achieve the 52,000 reduction in its workforce announced in December without another dispute on top of last winter's three-month pay strike.

The Consett workers, however, reacted to yesterday's announcement by declaring that they would set up their fight to save the works, and national union leaders have said they will back the campaign.

Closure would turn what is already an area of high unemployment into one where more than 30 per cent of the male workforce would be without jobs.

Announcement of the closure was made to union representatives by Mr. Derek Saul, managing director of BSC's Teesside Division, at a meeting in the local civic hall which was picketed by workers campaigning to save Consett.

Local union leaders argue that there is no justification for closing the works, which produces some of BSC's highest quality material. But the corporation said the decision had been made against a background of falling demand for billets and billet-derived products, largely because of the decline in the motor and engineering industries.

The corporation had an excess of billet production, and considered the most economical solution to be the closure of Consett.

Consett's orders will be transferred to plants in the Yorkshire and Humber Division, and the corporation is divided that this will not result in a loss of business.

Closure of Consett will produce 3,700 redundancies, 800 of them among white-collar staff. While this is considerably fewer than the job reductions negotiated by BSC in South Wales recently, Consett is in some ways a more delicate problem partly because of the disruptive impact on the local community and partly because it is a total closure.

British Steel said it was aware that it was the biggest employer in the Consett area and that the social effects of the closure would be serious. BSC Industry, the corporation's organisation which attempts to attract new jobs to declining steel areas, is at work in Consett.

Soviet car strike over food supplies

BY DAVID SATTER IN MOSCOW

WORKERS at the Soviet Union's vast Togliatti Motor Works held a two-day strike last month to protest against inadequate supplies of meat and milk products. It was the largest known industrial walk-out in modern Soviet history.

Reliable reports say that the walk-out closed the plant, which produces 700,000 light cars a year, and made more than 170,000 people idle.

A journalist on the local newspaper at Togliatti, a town on the Volga 650 miles east of Moscow, said he had never heard of the reported strike. An assistant to the Mayor of the town, spoken to by telephone from Moscow, angrily denounced the report as "provocative" and "anti-Soviet."

The stoppage began because of shortages of meat and milk products in Togliatti, which stemmed from even greater shortages in the entire Volga region.

Last year's grain harvest failure and the effects of the U.S. grain embargo, which were particularly serious in the first few months of this year, led to slaughtering of livestock in the region and sharply reduced supplies of dairy products, especially butter and milk.

Togliatti is normally one of the best provisioned cities in Russia. The plant produces cars costing from 6,500 (£4,365) to 9,000 roubles, while costing less than a third of that to produce. Workers there have always received preferential treatment.

The workers at Togliatti resemble Western European workers in some respects. They have a strong labour collective in the car works and unofficial leaders who, though separate from formal authority, are recognised by both factory management and men.

The Togliatti workers are said to be aware of the importance of the auto works, which was built in co-operation with Fiat, as a Soviet showpiece.

Though they have not pressed political demands, they guard jealously against any decline in their standard of living.

Although the workers at the plant continued to receive average pay of about 300 roubles, almost twice the national average, there began to be less and less to buy in the town.

The strike is said to have halted all work at the factory, where 85 per cent of Soviet cars are produced.

The men returned to work only after the authorities acted so that Togliatti received large deliveries of meat and milk products from the dwindling State reserves.

Cost in lost production was believed to have been 4,000 cars.

The leaders of the walk-out, said to have been supported actively by thousands of men, were apparently not punished by the authorities, and no action was expected to be taken against them.

Though Soviet doctrine provides a basis for severe action against strikers, since it is held to be impossible for the working class to strike against itself, the authorities have tended in practice to end strikes by trying to meet strikers' demands when they have been almost exclusively economic.

As a result, most strikes in the Soviet Union have lasted no more than a few days.

Background, Page 2

More banks cut prime

BY IAN HARGREAVES IN NEW YORK

MAJOR U.S. banks yesterday lowered their prime lending rates by half a percentage point to 12½ per cent, but no-one joined First National Bank of Boston, which on Wednesday cut its rate to 12 per cent.

Both Bank of America and Citibank, the country's two largest banks, moved to 12½, meaning that once again the prime is split three ways at 12, 12½ and 13 per cent.

The reluctance of the big banks to match First Boston was slightly puzzling in that the prime is still considered by analysts to be out of line with other short-term interest rates in the U.S.

These other rates held fairly steady yesterday, with three month treasury bills at 6.3 per cent. The bond market also held its own in spite of another huge influx of new issues, totalling \$840m.

Near-record issue total, Page 25

£ in New York

	June 11	Previous
Spot	\$2.475-3.495	\$2.325-3.275
1 month	1.50-1.55 dis.	1.45-1.50 dis.
3 months	1.60-1.65 dis.	1.55-1.60 dis.
12 months	10.05-9.95 dis.	9.90-9.80 dis.

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EUROPEAN NEWS

Rise forecast for investment in W. Germany

By Jonathan Carr in Bonn

WEST GERMAN industry is likely to boost investment in fixed assets by 10 per cent in real terms this year, though industrialists are increasingly gloomy about business prospects.

This apparent contradiction emerges from the latest survey of investment planning in manufacturing industry, carried out in March and April by the IFO economic research institute of Munich and released today.

The survey, which is made twice a year of about 4,000 companies, indicates that investment will increase in 1980 by about 15 per cent in nominal terms, or about 10 per cent after allowing for price increases. In 1979 investment rose almost 11 per cent in real terms.

No less than 37 per cent of companies give extension of capacity as the main reason for investment this year, while 35 per cent give rationalisation as the chief motive. This is a reversal of the emphasis on rationalisation of the last few years.

These results are curious since German business opinion surveys since last autumn have indicated growing scepticism about prospects in coming months.

Schmidt expects to stay as leader of government

By our Bonn correspondent

THE WEST GERMAN Chancellor, Herr Helmut Schmidt, says he expects to remain as leader of the Government in Bonn throughout the next legislative period to 1984—and perhaps even a bit longer.

Herr Schmidt made this confident prediction yesterday in an interview with the mass-circulation daily newspaper Bild, two days after the congress of his Social Democratic Party in Essen, which was preparing for the general election on October 5.

Although Herr Schmidt and other Social Democrat leaders have warned against over-confidence and have stressed they plan to fight for every possible vote, the Chancellor gave no sign in the interview

that he had any doubt about the election result.

Asked why he had not devoted much attention in his Essen speech to Herr Franz Josef Strauss, his opposition challenger, Herr Schmidt replied that he had said what was needed. He did not have the time to go into every charge which Herr Strauss made against him.

The Chancellor also rejected the opposition charge that he was a prisoner of his party's left-wing, saying he was nobody's prisoner and that the left would not gain more influence through the election. He was Chancellor of a Social Democrat-Liberal coalition, and would remain so.

Half France blacked out by power workers

By David White in Paris

FRANCE suffered widespread electricity cuts, train stoppages and traffic jams throughout yesterday as a result of a strike by power workers' branches of the two leading trade unions.

Up to half the normal electricity supply was affected at times. Metal-working industries were particularly badly hit by the 24-hour strike and the cuts disrupted Paris' underground rail services and put street lamps and traffic lights out of use.

Hospitals and other priority services continued to receive supplies. The strike was in protest against a government proposal designed to prevent wildcat stoppages from endangering the safety of nuclear plants. It threatens workers with instant dismissal for "deliberate violation" of rules.

The two unions, the Communist-led CGT and the Socialist-leaning CFTD, campaigning to keep the right to strike intact, managed a rare show of solidarity. Other unions also organised protests without taking part in the strike itself. Demonstrators pleaded their case outside the senate in Paris.

M. Andre Girard, the Industry Minister who was responsible for the proposed nuclear plant regulations, had been due to explain his position on television on Wednesday night but was prevented from doing so. The power was cut.

A powerful bomb destroyed part of a departure lounge at Orly Airport outside Paris yesterday, marking the latest in an intermittent series of attacks by Direct Action, a group believed to have links with Italy's Red Brigades. Seven cleaners were injured by the blast, which took place shortly after midnight, when there were no passengers in the area.

An anonymous telephone call later claimed responsibility on behalf of Direct Action. The attack was the second spectacular demonstration that a major police round-up in France failed to break the back of the group as had been hoped.

A month ago Direct Action members used bazookas in a series of dawn attacks on Transport Ministry buildings in Paris.

STOPPAGE AT THE TOGLIATTI PLANT

Strike a risky last resort for Soviet workers

By David Satter in Moscow

ALTHOUGH STRIKES are rare in the Soviet Union, they do occur occasionally and, in a country where it can be extremely difficult to redress grievances, they constitute a risky last resort.

The reported work stoppage at Togliatti, where 170,000 people are believed to have been made idle, is untypical of Soviet strikes. The workers' collective at Togliatti is unusually cohesive and for the 10 years the plant has operated there has been an unspoken understanding that high quality work would be rewarded with high pay and good conditions.

The basic pattern, however, reflected in the Togliatti stoppage—a mass action leading to the achievement of the desired results—is typical of peaceful worker action because workers' demands are usually non-political and are often viewed as fair by the authorities.

There are few known examples of industrial action because information about strikes in the Soviet Union is a closely guarded secret. But there are two examples of worker action achieving a desired result in the Moscow area.

In 1977, in the city of Tula, 100 miles south of Moscow, factory workers refused to accept their paychecks for a period of months because, they argued, there was nothing in the shops for them to buy. The confrontation ended when Tula was named a "hero city" and deliveries of produce to the city were consequently increased.

Another example of industrial action was a strike by women textile workers in the city of Ivanovo, north of Moscow. The women objected to plans to locate new textile factories in the town because they feared that, unless factories employing



men were established, they would have little chance of getting married.

Mr. Alexei Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, came to Ivanovo to assure the women that factories employing men would be set up and they returned to work.

Most strikes in the Soviet Union concern such concrete issues and there are no known recent examples of strikes on behalf of political rights or greater freedoms.

There have been cases, however, where the reaction of the authorities has been brutal and repressive. These have been instances where strikes have been accompanied by disorder or where individuals from scattered enterprises have banded together to address general abuses on a national scale.

The best known example of a strike leading to violence and

people are believed to have died.

A mechanism for redressing grievances exists in Soviet factories in the form of trade unions but these are not always effective because they are under firm party control.

The union leaders arrange special services, such as paid holidays, but they must also help management meet production quotas and enforce discipline. In 1977, a group of disaffected workers headed by Mr. Vladimir Klebanov, a former shift leader in a Donbas coal mine, attempted to organise an independent union.

The members of the group had all been sacked from their jobs for trying to protest about abuses outside the established unions. After they announced their intention to form an independent union many were arrested or intimidated.

Moscow lashes out at renegade parties

By Leslie Collett in Berlin

THE SOVIET UNION has levelled its first attack against Yugoslavia, Romania and the Eurocommunists of Western Europe since the death last month of President Tito, the Yugoslavian leader, who began the move for the independence of Communist parties.

The parties which refused to take part in a recent meeting of pro-Moscow Communist parties in Paris are accused of "unforgivable opportunism" in the current issue of the magazine "Problems of Peace and Socialism." The publication, which appears in Prague, compares the renegade parties with the "most dangerous forms of anti-Communism."

Prominent among the European Communist parties which did not take part in the Paris meeting were the Yugoslav, Romanian, Italian and Spanish.

The unsigned article in the Prague journal, whose editor-in-chief, Mr. Konstantin Saradov, is a member of the Soviet central committee, attacks the dissenting parties without ever naming them. This is standard practice among "fraternal" parties as distinguished from the name-calling between the Soviet and Chinese parties.

The magazine attacks the Eurocommunists for "revisionist attempts" to split the international Communist movement with the help of concepts such as "national communism" and the "two Marxisms"—the "Western" and "Eastern" Marxism.

This is one of the strongest charges against parties which refuse to accept directives from Moscow since the Soviet Union criticised Romania in December, 1978, for defying a call by President Leonid Brezhnev to increase its defence budget along with the other Warsaw Pact countries.

Ironically, a tribute is paid to President Tito on the last page of the journal. It says the "bright memory of Josip Broz Tito will always be preserved in the hearts of the communists of the world."

The article attacking the Eurocommunists closes by warning them that "every opportunist concession" to anti-Communism only increases the "appetite of the imperialist ideologists" and will end in the self-execution of the independent-minded Communists.

Warning to Bonn on missiles

MOSCOW — The Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda yesterday called on the West German Government to reverse its decision to station U.S. nuclear missiles on its territory if it wanted to pursue military détente.

The blunt ultimatum comes less than three weeks before a visit here by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. It suggests that Herr Schmidt and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his Foreign Minister, would come under heavy pressure when they arrive here on June 30 to abandon West Germany's central role in plans agreed by NATO last December for a new generation of medium-range missiles.

Under the plans 574 Cruise and Pershing 2 missiles will be deployed under U.S. control in Western Europe from late-1983 as a counterweight to the build-up of Soviet SS20 missiles.

The Soviet Union has said talks on limiting missile arsenals cannot be held unless the NATO decision is abandoned or at least suspended, and it has rebuffed a suggestion by Herr Schmidt for an immediate deployment freeze.

Swiss trial for French officials

By Brii Khindaria in Geneva

TWO FRENCH customs men are to stand trial in Zurich on charges of economic espionage, undertaking banned activities in favour of a foreign Government and incitement to violate Swiss federal laws on banking secrecy.

Alarmed by the outcry in France because of the detention of the two officials last month, the Swiss are now playing down the incident. The public prosecutor has only asked for a 10-month suspended jail term for M. Bernard Rul and a five-month suspended sentence for M. Pierre Schulz. The prosecution is also seeking a fine of SwFr 5,000 (£1,314) for M. Rul and a SwFr 2,000 fine for M. Schulz.

The two accused were arrested for trying to collect information about the accounts of French citizens in Swiss banks but were later released on bail. Their lawyers are expected to seek postponement of the trial due to start next Tuesday. The Swiss are keen to speed matters up because of controversy in Switzerland about the grounds on which the

Frenchmen are being sued.

There is growing sympathy with the French view that Switzerland should not regard investigations of tax evasion by foreign officials as economic espionage. The argument of Swiss banks that laxity towards such investigations will damage the confidence of foreign investors is viewed with scepticism by the Swiss Government and the national bank, which while safeguarding secrecy, wants to stop Swiss banks from protecting tax evaders.

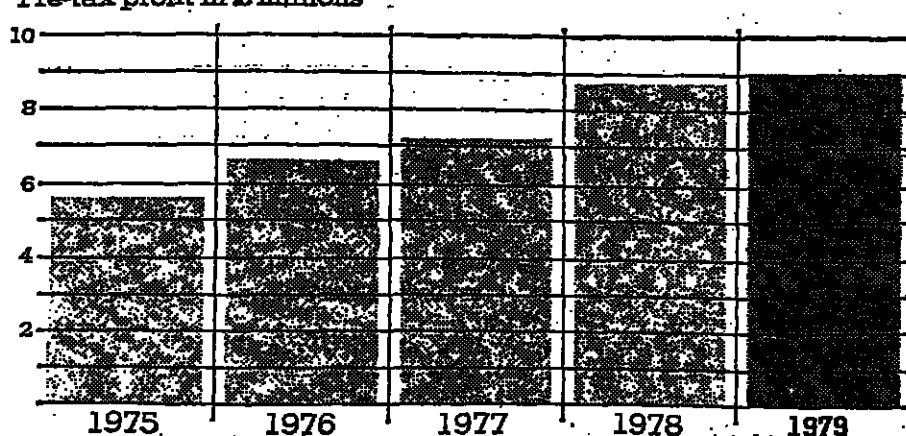
Many parliamentarians feel that Switzerland must agree to help foreign Governments investigate fiscal fraud especially as taxes are on the increase in all Switzerland's neighbours. A measure before the lower house of Parliament would authorise the Swiss Government to provide such help.

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مكتبة الشهد

Giscard's support takes a tumble

By Robert Maunier in Paris

THE FRENCH President, M. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, would face an extremely tough battle in the next presidential election. If the Socialist party decided to nominate M. Michel Rocard, the leader of its moderate wing, as its official candidate, according to a public opinion poll published yesterday.

The poll, taken in early June and published in the weekly magazine Paris-Match, indicates a significant fall in the percentage of the electorate intending to vote for M. Giscard, if he runs for a second term next spring.

If he were running in the first round against M. François Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, M. Georges Marchais for the Communists, M. Jacques Chirac for the Gaullists, and M. Michel Debré who would be standing as an independent Gaullist candidate, he would win about 35 per cent of the popular vote. This compares with 39 per cent in a poll taken in April.

Faced with M. Rocard, M. Marchais and M. Chirac in the first round, the percentage of voters intending to opt for M. Giscard would be only 33 per cent, against 35 per cent in the previous poll.

But the most striking findings were that, in the crucial second ballot, when only the two leading candidates in the first round are left to fight it out, President Giscard could be sure of winning only if the left-wing candidate were M. Mitterrand. In that case, he would obtain 54 per cent of the popular vote.

But if M. Rocard were running against him, the race would be virtually a dead heat, with each candidate obtaining about 50 per cent of the vote.

Though M. Rocard would represent the biggest threat to the President, he is by no means certain of nomination. The Socialists are still deeply divided between a majority which supports M. Mitterrand's candidature and a minority which backs M. Rocard. A final decision on the nomination is not due until the end of the year.

'Africa's gendarme' hopes aid can replace intervention

BY DAVID WHITE IN PARIS



A paratrooper on guard last month in N'djamena shortly before all French troops were pulled out of Chad.

FRENCH POLICY in Africa is changing. Twenty years after most of its colonies won independence, France is looking for new props to shore up its influence on the continent.

At the meeting last month in Nice between President Giscard d'Estaing and representatives of 25 African countries, there were hints from the French side that if France is to play the Good Samaritan to a wider range of needy countries, it will have to spend less time as the "gendarme of Africa".

In the past few years, French forces have rallied to the defence of "moderate" African governments and provided the only effective Western counterweight to Cuban-Soviet intervention.

The climax of France's gendarme role was the Foreign Legion's successful parachute attack on rebels in southern Zaïre two years ago. But the three French military actions since then have proved discouraging. In the first, French action was overtaken by events; in the second, it failed; in the third it has proved embarrassing. Morocco's efforts to maintain control over the former Spanish Sahara began with France as an effective ally of the Moroccans and defending Mauritania against the Polisario rebels backed by Algeria. But a coup d'état in 1978 caused Mauritania to abandon its part of the disputed territory and this changed the alliance. The rebels

"republic" is gaining increasing recognition and France has had to move swiftly to a position of neutrality.

In Chad, 1,100 French troops completed an orderly withdrawal from their isolated base outside N'djamena, the capital, on May 17, having seen to the evacuation of European families. But the civil war between rival factions of the victorious rebel armies from the Moslem north of the country continues. France had been proclaiming its intention to pull out for over a year, judging the country to be dangerously over-militarised. In Nice, President Giscard put his foot down and said the troops were going and there was no new French initiative on its way.

The troops originally went to defend a black-dominated military regime against a Libyan-backed revolt. France's effort towards a political settlement involved rehabilitating Mr. Hissen Habré, a former kidnapper who was judged to be the northern leader most likely to stop Chad becoming a Libyan satellite and who was therefore promoted Prime Minister. But a negotiated settlement in Lagos last August, from which France was excluded, led to the emergence of Mr. Gorkouni Weddeye as leader of a fragile coalition which soon fell into open conflict. There are real fears that the vast, empty territory will fall under Libyan control.

In the Central African Republic, paratroopers can probably claim they averted a blood-bath, but the French-backed coup which overthrew Emperor Jean Bedel Bokassa in September last year and re-installed the previous president has backfired in three ways. First came the acutely embarrassing allegations that M. Giscard and other personalities received boxes of diamonds from the deposed dictator.

Then, Mr. Bokassa arrived in Paris claiming that he was still a French citizen. The French Government managed to pack the ex-French soldier off to the Ivory Coast, but the incident highlighted the favour Bokassa had once enjoyed.

Finally, M. David Dacko, the re-installed President, revealed that French troops had not come in to assist after the coup, as had been implied. Instead, the first 400 paratroopers had landed at the same time as he.

President Giscard does not like the word "intervention". At Nice he insisted that intervention was not part of France's policy, which he defined anew as "non-interference and solidarity". By solidarity, he meant that France would continue to respond to appeals from African countries. But he hoped the appeals would involve contributions to development rather than anything else.

In the mid-1970s, France's main concern was Angola and

the progress of the Soviet Union and Cuba on the continent. Now, the preoccupations are more complex.

The Chad conflict is having an unsettling effect on the rest of

former French Equatorial Africa while there are fears for the stability of Zaïre and certain "moderate" states of former French West Africa.

Senegal is in deep economic

trouble while an unsuccessful putsch against President Houphouët-Boigny of the Ivory Coast merely underlined doubts about his succession. But the Nice meeting showed the French at least as anxious to woo "progressive" states such as Benin and Congo, who are opposed to intervention on principle, as the "moderate" stalwarts.

France has widened the scope of the meetings since President Pompidou launched them in 1973. At Nice, there were 25 African countries represented, 14 by their heads of state. The group has taken in not only Zaïre and other former Belgian colonies, but also the smaller ex-Portuguese and ex-Spanish states and two Commonwealth members, Mauritius and Sierra Leone. But there are important absences, including Guinea, Cameroon and Madagascar.

M. Giscard is hoping to get the whole Organisation of African Unity to back his proposal for a "trilogue" between Arab countries, Africa and Europe, already approved by the Franco-African group. The scheme, with cultural linkings, is essentially a bid to channel more dollars into aid for Africa, backed by European guarantees and using European skills and goods.

The "trilogue" requires debates by the EEC and the Arab League before preparations can be made for a foreign ministers' conference. A summit is not ex-

pected before 1982, and by that time Africa's economic plight will have worsened and some of its governments doubtless been overthrown.

What the African countries wanted more urgently in Nice was French aid and French support in securing more stable commodity prices and a liberal application of the Lomé II trade pact with the EEC. Paris has promised more funds. The budget of its Co-operation Ministry, which handles the bulk of French aid to Africa, has been raised 23 per cent this year to FFr 4.3bn (£500m).

France has 150,000 citizens living in Africa and over 7,000 troops on the continent. It also has large interests in mineral exploration, oil operations, public works, telecommunications and cars and its trade surplus has been rising.

But mercantile concerns alone would not explain France's interest in maintaining an African lobby. M. Giscard keeps a close eye on the continent, and France's Africa policy has remained to a large extent the preserve of a series of presidential advisers.

With the rise in oil prices, the "Nice collection" of mostly minor African states relies more than ever on France's aid. By presenting himself as their natural protector, President Giscard manages to keep up the appearance that France's Africa policy is still going strong.

Banks set their face against lending more to Turkey

BY DAVID TONGE

THE WORLD'S leading banks are resisting strongly suggestions that they should lend more money to Turkey. Next week, Western governments meet in Paris to discuss rescheduling about \$3bn of Ankara's official debts, as well as some past debts which have been rolled over once before. Then, they believe, it will be the banks' turn "to pull their weight".

But a number of leading U.S. and European bankers say there is no question at present of them raising fresh medium-term funds to help Turkey through its continuing crisis. They say they will continue slowly to build up their short-term exposure to Turkey on revolving acceptance credits. "Increasing these helps" both our exporters and Turkey," in the words of one banker.

A European bank, approached by its national government, said it would only lend fresh money with its own government's guarantee — an action which Bonn took over a loan to Portugal two years ago.

Although the IMF and the OECD stress that Turkey's revival depends on an adequate supply of foreign funds, the banks are adamant. They also say that the worst measure Turkey could take if it wishes to restore its credibility would be to ask the banks to renegotiate agreements signed last year for \$407m of fresh money and for rescheduling \$2.9bn of bank debt.

These debts, like the \$2.3bn of official and government-guaranteed debt rescheduled in 1978 and 1979, are to be paid back over seven years. Turkey is known to be thinking of ask-

ing that the term should be changed to 10 years.

However forcefully the banks put their view, government officials say they are keeping in touch closely with the banks and hope, by leading and pushing, to encourage them to follow the example Western governments hope to set next week.

Next Wednesday, the IMF is expected to approve formally a three-year stand-by agreement for 1.25bn Special Drawing Rights (\$1.65bn). And between Tuesday and Thursday, Western governments are to hold a crucial meeting, under the aegis of the OECD, to tackle the thorny problem of official and guaranteed debt.

In 1978, \$1.2bn of this debt, falling due in the year to June 1979, was rolled over. The same thing was done the next

year on \$1.1bn worth of debt falling due in the year to this June. However, only one-third of the bilateral agreements necessary to implement this multilateral deal have been concluded.

OECD members have put together major aid packages for Turkey, including one of \$1.16bn in April, but Ankara has had problems in meeting payments due on the debt which has been rolled over. Next week's Paris meeting is intended to tackle this and to try to deal with the future. Turkey's total debt exceeds \$14bn and total debt exceeds \$14bn and total debt exceeds \$14bn.

The OECD is keen to see a three-year programme concluded which will run in parallel with the expected IMF stand-by agreement.

The radical measures announced by the government of Mr. Suleyman Demirel in January—which included opening the country to foreign investment and competition, abolishing price controls, and devaluing the lira—have won widespread Western praise. They have been followed by more measures to liberalise the economy.

Turkish banks are now to be allowed to set their own interest rates. Possessors of fortunes made from the black market will be allowed to deposit them with the banks without questions being asked. The red tape surrounding exports has been further unravelled.

None the less, some Western governments are worried about how far all these measures will be implemented and how much they can alter the underlying

situation. Inflation has reached levels of over 80 per cent, and this year's current account deficit could reach \$4bn.

There is concern, too, over the viability of Mr. Demirel's minority administration, as there is about the level of political violence and killing. A report by Amnesty International that "most people now being arrested by police and martial law authorities" are being subjected to torture has increased the anxiety.

The Turkish Government says that the black markets in foreign exchange and many goods have been largely eliminated. In the autumn, an OECD team is expected to visit Turkey to review progress.

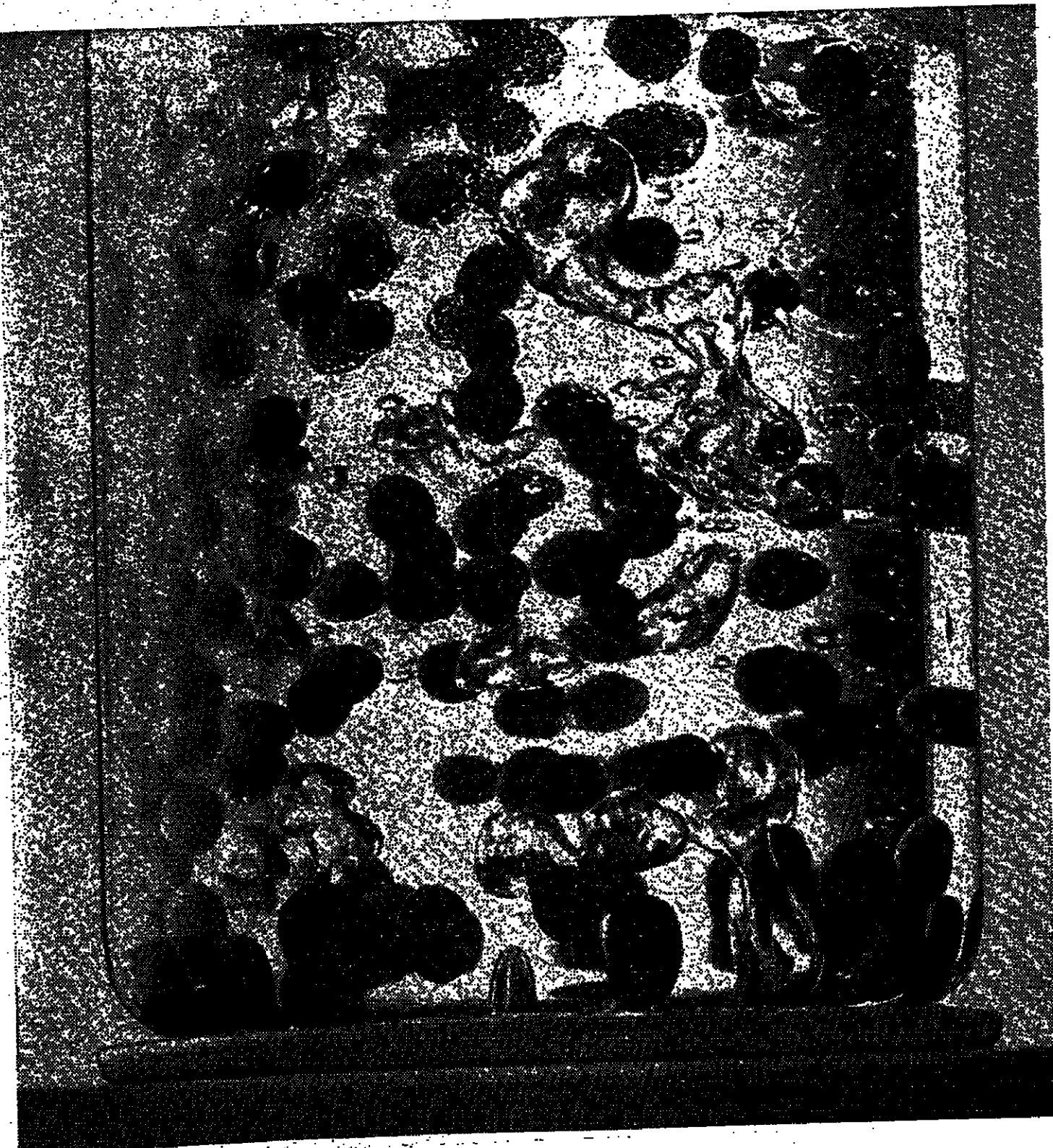
Western officials say that with the benefit of hindsight the previous reschedulings of

Turkish debt were done on terms which were too tough and "not very realistic". Some complain that the banks are "behaving like daisies" and that "it is not possible to let them off the hook".

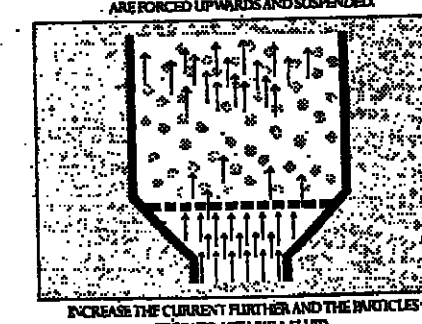
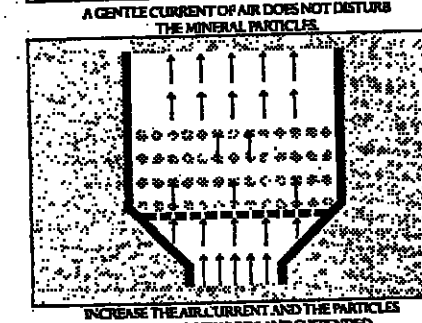
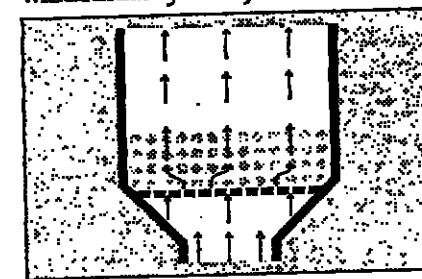
The banks express sympathy with the Turkish Government and say that each time it seems about to succeed it is "flattened" by an increase in its oil bill.

They also admit that this is a general problem affecting many developing countries. But they say, this does not make it any easier to persuade their auditors or shareholders that they should increase their lending to Turkey. Says one banker: "An IMF agreement and a major rescheduling by Western governments will all help, but the main point for us is that there must be progress on the ground."

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OVERSEAS NEWS

The balancing act required from Zimbabwe's Prime Minister after 100 days in office is examined by Tony Hawkins in Salisbury

Mugabe's crises of expectation—from whites and blacks

IN HIS FIRST 100 days in office as Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, Mr. Robert Mugabe has successfully walked the tightrope separating black aspirations from white fears. But as every day goes by, the difficulties of maintaining this delicate balance increase.

At the root of his problems lie two conflicting, and to some extent mutually exclusive, crises of expectations. As Mr. Mugabe takes stock of his position he must be acutely aware of the danger that his tightrope act will leave him isolated in no-man's land surrounded by disappointed blacks on one hand and demoralised whites on the other.

That there would be a crisis of black expectations obvious from the moment the Lancaster House agreement was signed. All parties promised a major improvement in the lot of the country's 7.2m blacks: more and better paid jobs, more and better housing, more land, free health and education, a state-financed pension scheme and so on.

Add to these promises the formidable task of rehabilitation and reconstruction of the rural economy after seven years of debilitating guerrilla war and the need to make good the backlog in both private and public sector investment that developed during the 15 years of economic sanctions, and it is all too apparent that for many blacks expectations are going to remain unfulfilled.

Even if the economy were to manage a 6 per cent real growth rate through the 1980s, it would still take until 1991 to regain the level of real income per capita achieved at the peak of the UDI boom in 1974.

For the whites the crisis of expectations is largely of their own making. During the years of war and sanctions, the business community in particular, convinced itself that if only legal independence could be negotiated, as it was at Lancaster House, the country would attract unprecedented foreign



Robert Mugabe: not a foot wrong

aid and foreign investment while the mere act of ending sanctions would stimulate a sustained economic boom.

But in the three months since the elections, businessmen have increasingly come round to the view that their hopes were unrealistic for three main reasons. First, they exaggerated the likely levels of aid. Although British officials are claiming that the actual amount of aid could well over a three year period, come within hailing distance of the \$1bn promised by Dr. Henry Kissinger in 1976, this argument is hardly convincing when the needs of the new Zimbabwe and inflation are taken into account.

Secondly, Zimbabweans are unhappy at the form the aid is likely to take. What Zimbabwe needs desperately is cash inflows but the bulk of the aid on offer is externally-supplied technical expertise.

The third reason for disappointment—and in many respects the most serious—is that very little private sector foreign investment has so far been promised. Until the announce-

ment that France and West German manufacturers and banks were to supply 25 120m credits for the Wankie thermal power station, the only other publicised foreign investment was the \$5m promised by Rio Tinto-Zinc. Numbers of foreign businessmen have visited Zimbabwe and expressed interest but more often than not they have left with a "wait and see" attitude. Most are waiting at least until next month's budget.

There is little doubt that investor sentiment—both at home and abroad—is being adversely affected by what Mr. David Smith, Minister of Commerce and Industry, calls "the hot air" in the media. This is a reference in the main to the radio and television commentaries on the Zimbabwe network, espousing socialism and African liberation and scathingly critical of past regimes in Zimbabwe.

Ultimately, though, it will be deeds and not words that matter. If one judges the Mugabe Administration on what it is doing rather than on what some Ministers and back-bench MPs are saying, the picture is of moderate pragmatism.

The Prime Minister has not put a foot wrong since taking over power. Visiting businessmen and diplomats leave his office impressed with his sincerity and commonsense. Their doubts how partly from the puzzling water of conflicting statements from different levels of Government, the party and the state-controlled media and partly because, despite Mr. Mugabe's policy of reconciliation, it is obvious that there are major tensions between the two black parties that make up the Government coalition—Mr. Nkomo's Patriotic Front, which is very much the junior partner, and Mr. Mugabe's ZANU-PF and between blacks and whites.

The focal point for these tensions is the armed forces on one hand and the public sector on the other. The programme to integrate the three former

Mr. Ernest Kadungure, Zimbabwe's Minister of Transport and Power, announced yesterday that the Government had negotiated two loans totalling \$4120m (\$22m) to finance stage one of the Wankie thermal power station. Construction started some years ago but was halted because of sanctions against Rhodesia. The Minister said that supplier credits totalling \$260m had been granted over a 10-year period at 8.25 per cent by the major West

German and French engineering groups MAN and Alsthon Atlantique. Mr. Kadungure said the remaining \$390m would be lent by a consortium of commercial banks but details were still under negotiation. A further \$240m would be needed to complete the project which would come on stream in three to four years. Mr. Kadungure said Zimbabwe was importing 263 MW a year, or 25 per cent of its electricity, from Zambia. Stage one of Wankie would produce 480 MW.

from public sector employment and from the country. It has worried the Government enough for Mr. Gnos Nkala, the Finance Minister, to say that the Government might be forced to abolish the incentive scheme offering higher pensions and free remittability of pensions outside the country to civil servants who opt to leave.

Although the rate of white emigration from Zimbabwe is running well below the levels of a year ago — 4200 left in the first four months of 1980 as against 5300 in the same period last year — it has picked up considerably from the last quarter of last year when the monthly outflow averaged 700.

Current estimates suggest that there will be very heavy outflow of whites in the final months of 1980 with the annual outflow being forecast at more than the 1978 total of 16,500. In the short run, the significance of white emigration is primarily economic. White agricultural skills are crucial in respect of land resettlement and food programmes. The Government has purchased more than 80 vacant farms from white farmers totalling 321,230 acres for resettlement of refugees, former guerrillas and tribal farmers needing extra land. But for the land resettlement

programme to succeed, expertise, as well as available land and capital, is vital. On current trends, the skills constraint is likely to be more severe than that of land or funds.

Two other important areas—industrial relations and finance—have also been crucial in the early days of Mr. Mugabe's Government. The labour situation itself is a microcosm of the equity versus growth trade-off that is at the heart of the Government's decision-making problems in the economy. The Government has been accused by the grassroots of failing between two stools and on taking office the administration faced a rash of wildcat strikes in which the fundamental grievance was pay.

In many of the strikes, Mr. Kumbirai Kangai, the Minister of Labour, or his deputy, intervened to get workers back to work promising that their grievances would be investigated. The outcome was a national minimum wage in commerce, industry and mining of \$270 a month (\$49) and of \$230 a month (\$20) in private domestic service and agriculture. Not only is the \$270 below the Poverty Datum Line figure calculated nine months ago by the University of Zimbabwe, which was over \$2100 a month, it was also well below what the workers themselves had been anticipating.

The pill was sagged for the disappointed workers by a promise that the minimum in commerce, industry and mining would rise to \$285 (\$58) on January 1, 1981, while in private domestic service and agriculture, wages and other conditions of service such as rationing, accommodation and clothing will be investigated by a government commission. In addition, from July 1, it will be an offence to sack anyone purely because of the minimum wage (though this will be difficult to police) and the government has committed itself to a prices freeze on essential goods.

There is precious little room for manoeuvre on the budget front. It is estimated that in the fiscal year ending on June 30, the budget deficit will be of the order of \$2550m to \$2800m (\$375m to \$410m). Indeed, the deficit is roughly half the total national budget expenditure of \$21.2bn (\$290m). Immediately on taking office, Mr. Nkala reduced the rate of general sales tax from 15 per cent to 10 per cent and at the same time exempted sugar, tea, margarine and cooking oil from the tax altogether. In a full year, these moves will cost the exchequer \$245m (\$45m) or about 10 per cent of the total tax revenue base, as it now stands.

He has recouped some of this with higher duties on drink, tobacco and betting. But the budget deficit remains formidable since although the spending on social services, such as reopening of schools and clinics closed during the war, is rising sharply.

The much-required decline in security expenditure is taking place at a far slower rate. Last year the war was absorbing 41 per cent of the budget and in

theory there should be scope for a massive switch of resources to social, productive state expenditure. But with more than 35,000 guerrillas still in the camps, with continuing outbreaks of banditry and terrorism by dissident former guerrillas in parts of the country, and with some units of the forces being deployed in the south-east to assist Frelimo against Mozambique dissidents, it is clear that the rundown in military spending is going to be slower than was hoped.

In the past, the substantial budget deficit was funded by heavy domestic capital market borrowing on the one hand and external borrowing on the other. With South African help, ruled out, not because Pretoria would not lend, but because it will only lend publicly which would be politically embarrassing for Mr. Mugabe, and with no other governments willing to offer budgetary aid, it looks as though Mr. Nkala will be forced to rely more than ever on local borrowing, some resort to the international market and higher taxes, or a broader tax base at home.

Given the Government's commitment to income and wealth redistribution and the 400,000 to 500,000 black school-leavers who have failed to find jobs in the past five years, the obvious need is for a strategy of growth which will create jobs for the unemployed. The World Bank, which has been a major force in achieving this, substantial foreign funds—mainly private—are required.

The private sector's current reluctance to invest could well be overcome after the July budget provided that Mr. Mugabe and his senior Ministers continue to trade off redistribution and social policies against private investment, both domestic and foreign. But if the Cabinet strays too far, one way or the other, from the middle ground it now holds, it runs the risk of being overwhelmed by the formidable problems it is encountering on all sides.



Joshua Nkomo: the junior partner

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Soviet troops 'killed in Kabul'

NEW DELHI — Reports from Afghanistan yesterday told of attacks on Soviet soldiers in the capital Kabul and said that four had been killed in the past few days. According to one account, three Soviet soldiers were killed on Tuesday and one was stabbed to death last week.

The attacks were said to have taken place in the Kabul suburb of Mikroyan, which consists of prefabricated houses especially constructed for Soviet advisers.

Fighting between Moslem insurgents opposing the Soviet presence in Afghanistan and Soviet and Government troops was reported to be continuing in the Paghman mountain range north-west of Kabul.

There were also reports of increased friction between rival factions of the ruling People's Democratic Party. Five members of the Parcham (Flag) faction of President Babrak Karmal were said to have been killed in Kabul last week by members of the Khalq (People's) group.

In the past few days there

has also been trouble in the east. Afghanistan town of Jalalabad, where rebels burned vehicles on the main road to Kabul.

Kabul Radio reported on Wednesday that the rebels were using poison gas and other toxins, which were harming the local population. The Afghan Government itself is also said to have used gas in retaliation against students who took part in anti-Soviet demonstrations last month. Reuters.

K. K. Sharma, adds from New Delhi: Pension has mounted in Kabul as evidence has grown of the rebel presence around the city. Guerrilla fighting near Kabul is said to have increased to the same intensity as in other parts of the country, and Russian troops are reported to have taken up defensive positions at points in the city where they have not been seen before.

This is being interpreted as a sign that the Russians now perceive a threat to Kabul itself for the first time. However, suggestions that Afghan rebels

are massing north-west of Kabul in the Paghman range may be exaggerated, with only a small skirmish there last week.

There have also been reports of unsuccessful coup attempts in Kabul within the past ten days. Kabul Radio has been accused of having been assassinated.

Reuters reports from West Berlin: Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany said here that he intended to make it clear during talks with Soviet leaders later this month that the West could not swallow the military intervention in Afghanistan.

Herr Schmidt, who is going to Moscow for two days on June 30, told the annual conference of the Transport Workers' Union on Wednesday night that he intended to play with open cards in the Soviet capital. The object was not to conclude treaties but to make it clear to Kremlin leaders that the action in Afghanistan could not be accepted.

Two weeks ago the northern island of Espiritu Santo seceded from the New Hebrides and on Tuesday islanders in Tanna tried to follow suit, leading to the death of an opposition politician.

France said yesterday that it believed that a compromise solution was required and it was necessary to avoid giving the impression that an iron military hand was being used, to tackle the "how-and-arrow revolt".

London tried to play down the apparent divide in Kam, saying that Whitehall had been consulted about the French departure. The gendarmes would be within three hours flight of the New Hebrides.

Allies at odds over rebel isle

By David Tonge
A DAY after Britain decided that the situation in the New Hebrides required the despatch of 200 marines, France announced yesterday that it considered the islands to be calm and would withdraw 60 gendarmes sent in on Wednesday.

The French move brought into the open the differences between the two countries over how to handle their rebellious Pacific archipelago. It shocked the New Hebrides government of Father Walter Lini, which said that the blame for any unrest before the arrival of the British marines on Saturday would lie with the French.

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S. African economy 'buoyant'

BY QUENTIN PEEL IN JOHANNESBURG

GROWTH OF the South African economy is likely to exceed budget forecasts and be the best this year since 1974, Senator Owen Horwood, the Minister of Finance, said yesterday.

Forecasting a growth of real gross domestic product of more than 5 per cent, Senator Horwood said the balance of payments current account surplus had risen to a new record R1.97bn (£1.08bn) in the first quarter, with a continued improvement in the value of exports.

In the first five months of the year the rand appreciated by 11 per cent against the dollar under its managed float, or 8 per cent against other currencies.

Senator Horwood said conditions in most sectors of the economy were distinctly

buoyant. Although real fixed investment had still not risen adequately, "it shows every sign of moving ahead rapidly".

The Finance Minister's growth forecast is slightly more conservative than the latest by the Standard Bank, which predicted a growth rate of some 6 per cent. With significant improvement in such areas as retail sales, car sales and building activity.

Senator Horwood also announced yesterday that plans to introduce a tax on fringe benefits before the end of the parliamentary session this week had been abandoned. There will be further consultation with all sections of commerce and industry over the measure.

The South African Government is to declare any place a "national key point" and to order adequate security precautions. Guards at such points, either civilians or members of the South African Defence Force will be given wide powers to search people, seize articles, and use force, including arms, according to the measure.

The proposed law is the first clear measure introduced by the South African Government since the Soweto shootings, which destroyed fuel and storage tanks worth R58m (£3.18m).

of strategic installations following the recent sabotage incidents at key oil installations, including two of the Sasol synthetic fuel plants.

A bill introduced in Parliament in Cape Town yesterday allows Mr. P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, to declare any place a "national key point" and to order adequate security precautions. Guards at such points, either civilians or members of the South African Defence Force will be given wide powers to search people, seize articles, and use force, including arms, according to the measure.

The proposed law is the first clear measure introduced by the South African Government since the Soweto shootings, which destroyed fuel and storage tanks worth R58m (£3.18m).

Political activity was halted and higher educational establishments were closed after widespread student rioting in South Korean cities last month. At one stage rebellious students took over the provincial capital of Kwangju for a week before troops moved in.

Meanwhile the Bank of Korea marked the wum down to its lowest point ever against the U.S. dollar. This follows recent upheavals and the U.S. currency's strength on the international market. Reuters.

S. Korea poll planned for next year

SEOUL — Mr. Choi Kyn-bah, South Korea's President, said yesterday that general elections would be held early next year and that power would be transferred to an elected administration by June 1981.

He said the imposition last month of full martial law, as well as the creation of a military-dominated special committee for national security measures, would not hamper planned political development.

Speaking on television, President Choi said that as long as public order and social stability were achieved, colleges and universities would be reopened and political activities resumed.

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Bishop freed

PEKING — Bishop Deng Yining of Canton, who refused to break with the Vatican when a Government-backed Chinese church was set up, has been freed after 22 years in prison.

Qotbzadeh opposes hostage trial

WASHINGTON — Mr. Sadeq Qotbzadeh, Iran's Foreign Minister, has again indicated that he opposes putting the U.S. hostages in Iran on trial. He said in a television interview shown in the U.S. that a trial "doesn't serve any particular purpose at this time".

Mr. Qotbzadeh was interviewed in Oslo where he has been meeting European Socialist leaders. He said he hoped the Iranian Parliament would decide on the hostage issue next month.

Asked about remarks by a senior Iranian official, Mr. Sadeq

Tabatabai, who said that the hostages should be freed as soon as possible, Mr. Qotbzadeh noted that several different views on the issue were being expressed in Iran. There was a division of opinion and Iranian politicians were trying to come to a consensus on the issue.

In Tehran, the state radio reported that a counter-revolutionary organisation within the Army had been uncovered in Kurdistan. Several members of the group would go on trial next week, the radio said.

It said the organisation, known as Barandazi (Over-

throw), was based in the Kurdish town of Piranshahr, close to the border with Iraq. The radio said 11 people had been arrested, but the newspaper Kayhan quoted Hojatoleslam Mohammad Reza Khatami, head of the army revolutionary courts, as saying that six people had been held in connection with an alleged plot to replace Iran's Islamic government with a democratic one.

Hojatoleslam Reza Khatami was quoted as identifying those arrested as a major, a lieutenant, three warrant officers and a sergeant. Reuters.

VIETNAM AND ASEAN

Hopes fade for Kampuchean accord

BY NAYAN CHANDA, RECENTLY IN KUALA LUMPUR AND BANGKOK

WITH DARK monsoon clouds now rolling over Indo-China, the time for yet another Vietnamese dry-season offensive in Kampuchea is over. But a season of diplomatic manoeuvring has begun in earnest, and while Hanoi's 200,000 troops and several thousand cadres consolidate its client regime's control over Kampuchea, Mr. Nguyen Co Thach, the Vietnamese Foreign Minister, has launched a "peace offensive" among Vietnam's ASEAN neighbours—Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Hopes of a compromise move by Hanoi were raised ahead of Mr. Thach's visit to Malaysia and Thailand in May, the first since the toppling of the Pol Pot regime in Kampuchea in January last year. As one ASEAN diplomat put it: "If the Vietnamese want to repeat the claim that the Kampuchean situation is irreversible and non-negotiable, there would be no point in sending their foreign minister to ASEAN." For its part, Peking was concerned enough by the conciliatory mood of Indonesia and Malaysia and by hints of flexibility from Gen. Prem Tinsulanond's new government in Thailand to issue a public warning against compromising with Hanoi.

By the time the trip ended, however, the general conclusion was that the Vietnamese Foreign Minister had been aiming not at a compromise but at selling the Vietnamese fait accompli in Kampuchea. Although he failed in his selling bid, Mr. Thach did expose differences within ASEAN which can work only in Hanoi's favour.

Before Mr. Thach embarked on his trip, Soviet and Cuban diplomats had passed word that Hanoi might be willing to broaden the Heng Samrin regime in Kampuchea by including some non-Communists. It might also withdraw some troops if Thailand stopped offering sanctuary to Khmer Rouge fighters of the former Kampuchean regime and stopped allowing Chinese arms to pass across Thailand to their bases.

In Kuala Lumpur, Mr. Thach indicated that these offers were possible and that Hanoi was open to the Malaysian Premier, spoke hopefully about "changes" in the Vietnamese position.

There were indeed changes in the Vietnamese position. After his earlier refusal to talk about Kampuchea, the Vietnamese Foreign Minister spent most of his time doing exactly that. But other changes apparent to the Malaysians seemed little more than offers to make the Vietnamese-installed regime in

Kampuchea more acceptable, or, as some diplomats suspect, to exploit differences between ASEAN members.

Mr. Thach told the Malaysians that an election would be held in Kampuchea and, while UN observers would not be welcome, ASEAN could send representatives from, say, Malaysia and Indonesia. Joint teams of ASEAN and Indo-Chinese observers could also monitor the Thai-Kampuchean border.

Mr. Thach also left the impression that Hanoi might itself withdraw some troops without an international agreement. These suggestions impressed the Malaysians but failed to move the suspicious Thais. Thailand will not accept elections supervised solely by the Malaysians and Indonesians and has insisted that the UN should monitor the border.

Above all, Thailand wants an international agreement and supervision of the withdrawal of troops, and not simply a Vietnamese promise. But Mr. Thach made clear to the Malaysians that his country will not accept linking a withdrawal to an external agreement because the presence of the troops was a matter between the Vietnamese and Kampuchean Governments.

As if to exploit the differences between Malaysia and Thailand, Mr. Thach took a tough line in Bangkok. In talks with Mr. Sitti Sawetta, the Thai Foreign Minister, he not only confronted Mr. Sitti with what one official called "a laundry list" of Thai "misdeeds" against the Heng Samrin regime—he pointedly withdrew the offer for the joint ASEAN-Indo-Chinese team of observers for the border, saying that after the visit to Bangkok of Mr. Huang Hua, the Chinese Foreign Minister, Thai collusion with the Khmer Rouge had sharply increased.

Mr. Thach will visit Indonesia and Singapore over the next month. So far the Vietnamese "peace offensive" has not brought peace or recognition of the Heng Samrin regime any closer, but it has revealed differences among ASEAN partners.

Indonesia and Malaysia accept Vietnamese domination of Indo-China and want to make peace. Thailand and Singapore, and perhaps the Philippines, still want Kampuchea as a neutral buffer. But during his trip to Bangkok, Mr. Thach drove home the point that Vietnam's acceptance of ASEAN was conditional upon the South-East Asian Nations' accepting Indo-China as a bloc.

ADVERTISING

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WORLD TRADE NEWS

Japanese back plan to resume work at Iran chemical plant

By CHARLES SMITH, FAR EAST EDITOR, IN TOKYO

TOP EXECUTIVES of five Japanese companies participating in the \$3bn Bandar Khomeini (El.3bn) petrochemical project in southern Iran yesterday gave their blessing to a "formula" for the resumption of work on the project.

The formula was worked out last month by Mr. Eimei Yamashita, president of the Japanese-owned Iran Chemical Development Corporation and Dr. A. K. Kouhyar, the Iranian official in charge of the project. It provides for work to be resumed in full before the end of this year and for the last of the 13 units at the complex to come on stream by mid-1982.

Resumption, however, is still conditional on the settlement of disputes between the Iranian authorities and the 28 Japanese contractors involved in the project. These disputes will be the subject of direct talks between the companies concerned and an Iranian mission, headed by Dr. Kouhyar, which is due in Tokyo tomorrow.

After the conclusion of "general" talks between Mr. Yamashita and Dr. Kouhyar in Tehran last month Iran asked the Japanese contractors to "present themselves" at Bandar Khomeini for an on-the-spot inspection of the complex and for talks on financial and other problems arising from the 14-month suspension of work on the project. The Iranian side indicated that failure by

British Steel in big Korea deal

By Our World Trade Staff

THE BRITISH Steel Corporation has won a major order to supply 80,000 tonnes of steel to South Korea for the third and fourth extensions of the Seoul subway, to be shipped over the next year.

Although BSC would give no details of the value of the order, Lloyds Bank International is providing supplier credit, backed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department, to the Seoul Metropolitan Government at terms yet to be disclosed. Lloyds will refinance the loan through the Eurodollar market for a further five years on the date due.

BSC said that the order, which follows one for 6,000 tonnes of steel two years ago for the same project, was for medium and heavy steel sections, which would be made at Scunthorpe and Teesside.

Lloyds has also received a mandate from South Korea's Economic Planning Board (EPB) to seek a further loan through the Eurodollar market to cover supply of steel plate for the subway extensions.

The loan will be placed through the London market. The successful tenderers for the supply of the steel plate have not yet been disclosed.

UK trade officials differ in protection debate

By PAUL CHEESERIGHT

THE UK debate on the merits of international free trade came into sharper focus yesterday when Government and Opposition officials differed on what degree of protection should be given to local industry.

But both sides turned firmly against the ideas of Mr. Wynne Godley and the Cambridge Economic Policy Group: high tariffs and tax cuts to stimulate the economy.

It is a lunatic notion, argued Mr. Cecil Parkinson, Minister of State for Trade, that a nation which is more dependent on trade than any other should put up the shutters. But he accepted the case for restraints in the face of dumped imports and cited the restrictions placed on U.S. synthetic fibres.

However, Mr. John Smith, Secretary for Trade in the last Labour Government, argued

that the position of some manufacturing industries had been eroded so much that selective import controls cannot be avoided. The case for controls should be examined on an industry by industry basis.

This difference in policy emphasis was reiterated at a London conference organised by Westminster and City Programmes. Partly it arose from different conceptions of what industry can stand in the face of recession and gathering competition.

Partly it arose from traditionally different conceptions of the Government role in the economy—whether, in fact, the Government should play a directing role in economic recovery.

But both Mr. Parkinson and Mr. Smith were highly conscious of the UK position in a range

of international organisations. This cuts the scope for individual action, and it was noticeable that Mr. Smith was looking for ways to make the present system work better, as far as the UK is concerned, and to circumvent it.

Thus he wanted the EEC to be more dedicated in its application of anti-dumping mechanisms. At the same time he wanted to develop trading agreements with major partners: This is the idea of managed trade—two countries deciding, in effect, what they are going to sell to each other and making arrangements for it. This could be done both through the EEC and nationally.

Mr. Parkinson seemed content with the present structure of the UK's trading relations. As he noted, 40 per cent of the UK trade is with the EEC, and

this is where exports are growing fastest. If the rest of the European market and North America are added on, this accounts for 75 per cent of UK trade.

The structure of UK trade and the country's treaty obligations are major difficulties for those who argue in favour of protectionism, he said.

Certainly this sort of view is music to the ears of the EEC Commission and officials at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The position of the EEC is that selective import controls are absolutely a last resort, and it is unlikely that any EEC member would be allowed to protect industry on a large scale while imports into other EEC countries remain free.

GATT fears that controls will provoke retaliation and that, if one leading country swung

decisively towards protection, the international trading order would be catastrophically undermined.

And both GATT and EEC carefully note that the UK's problems are not unique. What is unique about the UK is low productivity and a highly valued currency.

And that brings the argument round full circle. As Mr. Smith put it, and Mr. Parkinson would no doubt agree, questions of increasing productivity and sustaining investment will not be tackled by imports policy or altering the terms of trade.

Mr. Parkinson was prepared to make a virtue of what many see as misfortune. Exports have not collapsed in the face of a strong pound and if more British exporters are forced to move up-market, then the strength of the pound could be a blessing in disguise.

New loan for HK transit

By OUR WORLD TRADE STAFF

LAZARD BROTHERS has arranged a HK\$36.7m (£7.5m) buyer credit, supported by the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), for the Hong Kong Mass Transit Railway Corporation, to finance a contract awarded to a joint venture between Henry Boot of the UK and Gammon of Hong Kong.

Henry Boot will supply and install railway track and Gammon will carry out foundation work

on the Tsuen Wan extension and depot of the railway system, in which British companies have played a major part.

The funds are to be made available by Wardley and Hang Seng Bank of Hong Kong, and Wardley will act as manager and agent for the new loan. In association with Lazard, Wardley is also arranging a loan of HK\$78m for the portion of the contract which is now guaranteed by ECGD.

'Buy American' law attacked

By Victor Mackie in Ottawa

THE U.S. is inviting protectionist retaliation by Canada by failing to curb the increased number of States passing "buy American" laws, Mr. Peter Towe, the Canadian ambassador to Washington, has warned.

In an address to a Pittsburgh audience, Mr. Towe said he is worried by a growth of protectionist pressures in both countries.

L'Oreal in China contract

By TERRY DODSWORTH, IN PARIS

FRENCH industry's push into the Chinese market has taken an unexpected turn with a contract to L'Oreal, the cosmetics and pharmaceutical company, to open a beauty salon in Canton.

The salon, in the Hotel Tung Fang, will comprise a unisex hairdressing business, health care centre, sauna and perfume shop, all exclusively reserved for L'Oreal trade marks.

In explanation of this rather

unusual breakthrough, L'Oreal commented: "There are women everywhere."

So far China has been the almost exclusive target of French heavy industry, but L'Oreal says the Chinese have let it be known that they are interested in the development of consumer goods in the fields of hair treatment, health and hygiene products.

Hong Kong seeking investment

By David Dodwell in Hong Kong

THE HONG KONG Government plans to post representatives abroad with a specific brief to encourage overseas companies to set up a manufacturing base in the Colony.

This marks a significant departure from the traditional economic growth strategy adopted by the Government—that of promoting trade as the primary catalyst for growth.

A senior official at the Department of Trade, Industry and Customs revealed plans to appoint permanent representatives to four areas: the U.S., Japan, Britain and the EEC—with a specific brief to encourage inward industrial investment.

Until now, the preoccupation with trade promotion has meant that a total of 20 trade development councils have been set up around the world. Staff in these councils, on top of their trade promotion work had an informal brief to promote inward investment, but it is now recognised that such an informal brief is no longer sufficient.

The growth strategies of Hong Kong and Singapore have been contrasted over the past two decades by Hong Kong's reliance on export promotion and Singapore's emphasis on attracting manufacturing investment.

This was natural at the time, in that Hong Kong already had a strong manufacturing base and was most concerned with finding markets for their output. Singapore did not have such an established base, and consequently put emphasis on creating one.

The new move shows that the Hong Kong authorities attach increasing importance to the need to upgrade the Colony's manufacturing base, attract new industries and diversify its economic activities.

Fokker sells jets to Bangladesh

By Charles Batchelor in Amsterdam

FOKKER has announced the sale of three F-27 and F-28 aircraft to airlines in the U.S. and Bangladesh. It has also reached agreement with a U.S. company which will maintain a spares distribution centre to meet expected demand there.

Fokker will deliver two 85-seat F-28 Mark 4000 fan jets to Bangladesh Biman, the national airline, in December, 1981, and April, 1982.

Mississippi Valley Airlines, a U.S. commuter carrier, has converted its option on one 50-seat F-27 Mark 500 turboprop into a firm order bringing its order book to four aircraft.

Fokker has signed a contract with E-Systems of Texas for the U.S. company to set up and maintain a spares stock and distribution centre.

Fuel efficiency

The Dutch group later plans to establish a network of resident field engineers at locations close to its customers. Five U.S. airlines have recently bought Fokker aircraft and several others have expressed strong interest.

SAAB-Scania of Sweden and Fairchild Industries of the U.S., who are jointly developing a new 34-seat passenger commuter aircraft, have chosen General Electric to produce the power units, John Walker writes from Stockholm.

The GE engine will be the CT-7, a new technology, fuel efficient turboprop power plant providing the latest advantages in turboprop reliability. Consumption is about 5-15 per cent lower than that of competing engines evaluated.

The manufacture of the new aircraft will be shared by SAAB-Scania and Fairchild, with the wings and ancillary equipment being built in the U.S. and the production of the fuselage and final assembly in Sweden.



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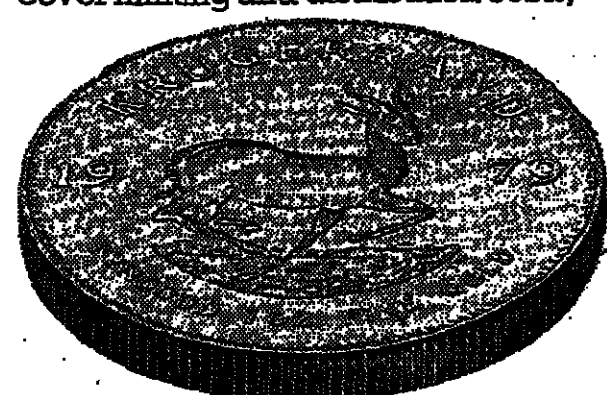
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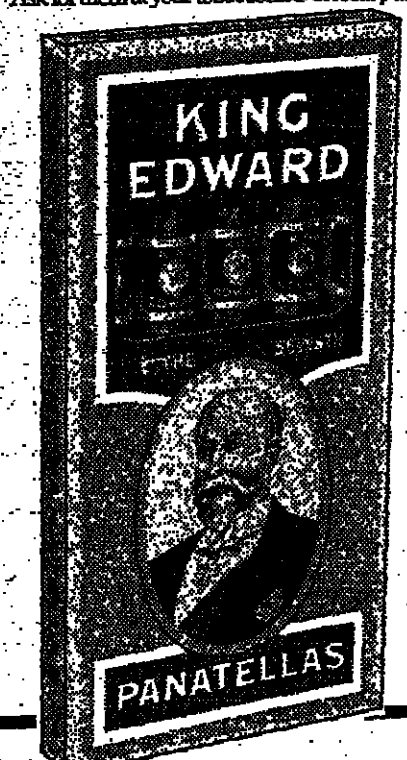
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AMERICAN NEWS

Chrysler cash injection likely next week

BY IAN HARGREAVES IN NEW YORK

CHRYSLER and the U.S. Treasury hope to complete detailed negotiations and documentation of the rescue programme for the ailing motor company next week.

The Treasury said yesterday that after consultations with Chrysler, it expected to be able to authorise the sale of the first \$500m (£213m) of Government-backed loan notes next week, providing a rapid injection of cash into the company. On Wednesday, Chrysler announced that it had halted all payments to suppliers because of its rapidly dwindling cash reserves.

Apart from the volume of documentation involved, the Treasury still has to find a way of whipping into line the remaining banks which are refusing to participate in the \$3.5bn rescue programme.

The U.S. Treasury said that it had now won agreement from two more of the rebel banks, but it would not say which. It may still have an uphill fight with some of the rebels.

Balanced U.S. budget 'economically impossible'

BY DAVID BUCHAN IN WASHINGTON

THE SLUMP in the U.S. economy is pushing the current federal budget deeper into the red and the prospect of balancing it in 1980-81 into the realm of economic impossibility, according to Administration officials.

This recognition has come as Capitol Hill and the White House seemed likely to resolve their dispute over the budget's preliminary spending ceiling.

The House of Representatives was due to vote late yesterday on the amended budget plan, which provides for slightly higher domestic expenditure on welfare programmes for those hurt by the recession in the coming year, and a notional trimming of defence spending

projections beyond 1981. Security-conscious Senators refused to agree to pare the previously agreed \$153.7bn figure for defence next year. If, however, enough liberals in the House accept the new package, the Administration, which had taken the House side in the budgetary argument, is expected to go along with the outcome.

Originally set at less than \$30bn, the current budget will probably be in the red by \$47bn, according to the latest Congressional projection. The chances of this being turned around next year are made even slimmer by the defeat last week by Congress of President Carter's plan for an oil import fee.

Venezuela reactivates oil company tax claims

By Kim Fuld in Caracas

THE VENEZUELAN Government is reactivating over \$1bn in tax claims against more than 50 foreign oil companies following a decision to reject a proposed out-of-court settlement. Sr. Jose Ignacio Moreno Leon, deputy energy minister, said yesterday.

The decision to reactivate the claims, partially suspended since 1977, was based on a joint Energy and Finance Ministry commission's recommendations as well as the announcement by one of the companies, Pure Oil, that it recognised the claims and would pay them.

"We are disappointed that the Government has decided it is not interested in an out-of-court settlement," one major company spokesman said, "But it's their right."

The companies, headed by Exxon, Shell and Gulf, had earlier proposed a payment of \$135m to settle claims totalling \$400m, covering returns made between 1967 and 1975. At the same time, they rejected another \$800m in claims lodged against them in 1976 by the Venezuelan Comptroller General, stemming from a controversial interpretation of Venezuelan tax laws.

Immediately at stake is over \$375m, which forms part of a special fund the companies were forced to deposit with the Venezuelan Government to cover replacement or repair of the assets acquired by Venezuela in the compensated nationalisation of the oil industry in 1976, as well as pending commitments, such as the tax claims.

Dr. Moreno Leon said that the special fund would cover the normal tax claims but that the companies would be asked to put up additional financial guarantees to cover the Comptroller General's claims.

Late in 1979, the first of the Comptroller General's claims emerged from income tax claims, ordering American Petrofina to pay \$20,000. When the company appealed before the Supreme Court, its appeal was thrown out on procedural irregularities.

THE WORLD BANK

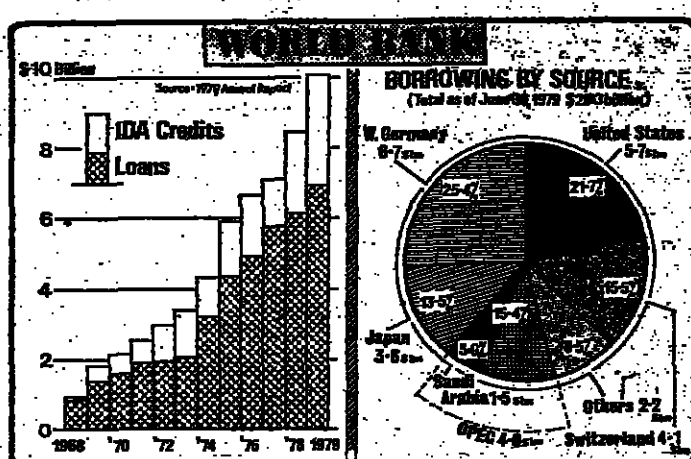
First stop starvation; then tackle growth

WHEN Mr. Robert McNamara took over as president in 1968, the World Bank group had a professional staff of 740 and each year was making loan commitments to \$4-\$5bn in today's money.

Since then the bank's staff has trebled and the value of its lending has more than doubled to \$11bn. Borrowings now total \$30bn, about \$10bn of that kept in liquid funds. But the changes of Mr. McNamara's time are ones of quality as much as of quantity.

His presidency has combined style and missionary zeal and has changed the course of the bank. It has also seen the optimism of the early 1970s give way to the more sombre mood of the end of the decade. Hopes of eradicating the human degradation of "absolute poverty" by the end of the century have foundered. The mounting oil bills and balance of payments deficits of the Third World mean that the bank is having to renege to stay in the same place. At the same time its critics, both in the U.S. Congress and the developing world, are becoming more vocal.

Founded in 1945, the World Bank first worked on reconstructing a war-ravaged world. The second phase of its history began in the early 1950s when, influenced by the experience of India, it set out to help



development by concentrating on large projects in the Third World. Large capital-intensive projects, such as roads and power stations, would lead to increased growth, it was thought, and the benefits would "trickle down" to the poor.

In 1973, Mr. McNamara started to move the bank in a new direction. In a speech in Nairobi he launched a crusade stressing rural development and a just division of the fruits of growth. "To make the small farmer into the instrument of progress—that would be the breakthrough of the century," he once said. Bank staff were beginning to learn not so much from India as from Pakistan.

There, political instability and the problems of distributing growth between regions and classes made it clear that growth by itself was not enough. Redistribution had to be assured. The bank started lending for population control and improving the environment.

Irrigation and the provision of seeds and fertilisers began to feature more prominently and two loans to Nigeria in 1974 totalled \$40m and boosted the incomes of 600,000 people. Indonesia received a \$6.3m credit for agricultural education from the International Development Association, the arm of the World Bank group which lends to the poorest

countries. Its terms are usually 0.75 per cent over 50 years compared with the World Bank's present 8.25 per cent over usually 20 years.

The IDA contributed \$15m to a \$40m population project in Bangladesh, and loans were made to improve sanitation, housing and schools in such cities as Jakarta and Manila.

The change shows up in recent figures. Over half the loan commitments by the Bank and the IDA in the five years 1967-71 were for ports, roads and power. Today, that share has fallen to under a third. The proportion of loans going to agriculture has doubled from 17

per cent. Population, urbanisation and water supply projects now account for over 7 per cent of commitments.

Within the bank, there were changes. In 1968, half the staff came from only two countries, Britain and the U.S., while the developing countries provided a mere 19 per cent.

Today these shares are more equal (36 and 33 per cent) even if the developing countries, particularly the Arab states, complain they are not well represented in senior posts.

But by 1976, some limits to the Nairobi approach had become clear. There were general

Republican Party post the key to Reagan campaign

BY JUREK MARTIN, U.S. EDITOR IN WASHINGTON

MR. RONALD REAGAN could this weekend give a clear indication of the direction of his Presidential campaign when he decides whether or not to retain Mr. Bill Brock as chairman of the Republican Party.

The two men are due to confer in Los Angeles this afternoon amid clear signs that several influential members of Mr. Reagan's conservative inner circle want Mr. Brock, who is popular with party moderates, replaced by somebody more in tune with the candidate's thinking.

But Mr. Brock shows no willingness to go quietly. He was quoted yesterday as declaring that "I am operating under the assumption that I have the

governor's confidence." Indeed, Mr. Reagan's only recorded public statement on the issue last month was to the effect that he could see no reason why Mr. Brock should not continue in his post.

From a conventional political standpoint, it would appear sensible for Mr. Reagan to broaden the base of his appeal in advance of the general election campaign. In this respect both his choice of a running mate and the fate of Mr. Brock will demonstrate whether or not he wants to reach out beyond the conservative base which is his natural kingdom.

But many of his closest advisers, both his long time associates and some of the

younger breed of conservatives who have run the campaign since the sacking of Mr. John Sears, the pragmatic manager, last February, are less willing to compromise on ideological matters.

Their complaints against Mr. Brock are numerous: that he remained neutral in the primaries, that he would not devote party funds to help defeat the Panama Canal treaties, that he balked over removing two other senior party officials thought to be too liberal, that he was too quick to hire as advisers friends of Mr. Sears after they were purged in February.

Mr. Brock's counter is that he is the servant of the Repub-

lican Party, not merely its Presidential nominee, and that the breadth of national political experience he can bring to bear, especially under new electoral rules, would be a valuable complement to the more limited electoral background of Mr. Reagan.

In this respect, it might be recalled that one of the wiser decisions taken by then candidate Jimmy Carter in 1976 was to retain as Democratic Party chairman Mr. Robert Strauss.

Certainly, the Reagan campaign, which is still largely being managed out of Southern California, has shown signs of needing expert political tending. The most recent example of what could turn out to be a

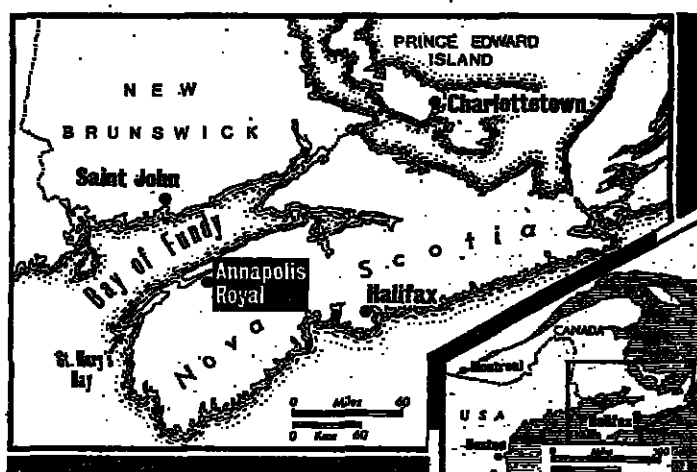
political error was Mr. Reagan's apparent assertion to the Egyptian Ambassador in Washington, Mr. Ashraf Ghorbal, that he might modify his hitherto staunch pro-Israeli attitudes. It was not so much what he may have said that caught the eye, but the fact that most of his senior staff had no idea that he had met Mr. Ghorbal.

If he persuades Mr. Brock to give up the chairmanship, then that might make it much harder for Senator Howard Baker to accept second spot on the ticket if it is offered to him. Both Mr. Baker and Mr. Brock are from Tennessee and reasonably close personally and in beliefs.

ENERGY REVIEW: CANADA

BY LYNDON WATKINS IN HALIFAX

Tidal power in the Bay of Fundy



TECHNICAL ADVANCE, ever-rising oil prices and increased concerns about nuclear energy may yet cause the tidal power on Canada's east coast to be exploited. With financial support from the federal government, Nova Scotia is embarking on a tidal power demonstration project on the Bay of Fundy, the first physical step towards the commercial exploitation of one of North America's largest remaining potential water-power sites.

Though small in output, the 20 megawatt project will test a new straight-flow, rim turbine-generator which could cut billions of dollars from the cost of eventual, large-scale tidal developments. Moreover it could find widespread application in present and future inland river power schemes throughout the continent.

The Bay of Fundy, 125 miles of heavily sedimented waterway separating Nova Scotia from New Brunswick and the State of Maine, has 37 possible power development sites, ranging in size from 0.5 to 10,000 megawatts. In theory they could all be developed without interfering with each other.

With water depths of from 130 to 430 feet, many of the sites are beyond present exploitation. Others, on the many inner bays and river estuaries, are potential producers of hundreds of billions of kilowatt hours of renewable energy annually.

Development assessment

Produced by a tidal range of up to some 50 feet, this enormous resource has been recognised since 18th-century settlers used water mills to grind flour. Succeeding generations shared their interest but until very recently most agreed that commercial power exploitation was either technically or economically impractical. Some still hold that view.

However, in 1977 a review of an earlier federal-provincial development assessment concluded that two of three prime sites investigated were technically feasible and worthy of more detailed economic, environmental and sociological assessment. The follow-up work has not all been done. Despite eastern Canada's heavy reliance on imported oil to produce much of its electric power needs, the Fundy tides have rarely produced more than a lukewarm response in Ottawa. But last December then

where as many as three changes of direction take place as water passes through the powerhouse.

The principle is not new. It was first devised by a U.S. engineer, Leroy F. Hazen, early this century. Escher Wyss subsequently built a number of small units which were installed in southern Germany and both they and English Electric undertook further development work in the 1960s and 1970s.

(English Electric's work was subsequently sold to the Swiss with certain safeguards for the British company, now GEC, at least in the field of related generator manufacture in the UK.) The major challenge to be overcome in the Annapolis prototype will be to design a unit of sufficient size and suitable for salt water operation, and to prevent water passing from turbine to generator. A water pressure system of hydrostatic bearings and seals will be used, allowing a constant, accurate tolerance between rotating and fixed components in the machine and eliminating the need for a centre generator shaft in the turbine.

As a prototype, the C&I 25-foot Annapolis turbine-generator will be more expensive than comparable built units, but its efficiency is expected to be similar. The two will be compared in planned monitoring of both the Annapolis unit and a conventional machine of similar size being installed on the Ohio River, south of Columbus, Ohio.

The turbine, though not the generator, is a full scale prototype of what might be used in a commercial tidal power development. It will not, however, have variable blade pitch allowing it to produce power on both the flood and ebb tide. Such double effect capability would add only about 25 per cent to total output and most assessments suggest this would not be worth the additional capital outlay.

Similarly, no attempt will be made to overcome the demonstration unit's reliance on the lunar cycle of the tides. The twice daily tides rotate on a 24 hour 50 minute cycle. For power to be available at high low demands of the solar day, the morning and evening rush hours, some form of retiming would be necessary.

Several possibilities have been considered. Tidal power could be used to pump water up to a reservoir, releasing it to run downhill and drive another turbine to deliver electricity at peak hours. Another possibility is that tidal power could be used to compress air and store it, which would then be used in gas turbine driven generators. A third possibility is that tidal energy could be used to extract hydrogen from sea

water by electrolysis, for subsequent use as a fuel.

None of these will be attempted in the Annapolis scheme. It will physically store water from the incoming tide, but the power producing discharge can only take place at low tide. Even so, Nova Scotia Power engineers, who will manage construction and operation of the tidal station, think they can make beneficial use of between 85 and 90 per cent of the power without retiming.

At some stage in the future, however, retiming seems likely to take place. Baron Edmond de Rothschild, a long time advocate of Fundy tidal development, has favoured the hydrogen option, suggesting that the fuel could be pipelined to U.S. markets or used, with the oxygen also derived from the process, for large locally situated industrial requirements.

With large investments in gas turbines, urban centres like New York could use off peak tidal produced electricity to compress air for subsequent use in gas turbine generators. This could substantially reduce oil purchases as up to two thirds of a gas turbine's fuel demand goes into compressing air. However, the simplest and probably the most economic retiming option is probably conventional pumped stored water.

As Mr. David Nantess, president of the provincial Tidal Power Corporation says, "the virtue of tidal power is becoming more obvious." He does not play down the obstacles it still faces. "But," he says, "Ottawa's commitment to the Annapolis project represents a significant advance. Two years after Annapolis comes on stream in mid-1983, he expects a final decision will be reached on full scale, Fundy development."

Earlier thinking suggested the smaller of the three target sites might be developed first, a 1,085 megawatt station costing about \$33.1bn 1980 dollars. However, with competing energy costs rising so steeply he thinks it is conceivable that one of the large sites, involving 3,800 megawatts and costing \$39.2bn 1980 dollars might be considered.

Preliminary discussions on power sales have been held with the Power Authority of the State of New York. With a 2 per cent annual load growth, it has an annual requirement of 400 megawatts of additional power. So hungry has it become for additional sources

of non-oil related power that it has considered developing conventional hydro sites with as little as 1 to 3 megawatts capacity.

Cost will obviously be a factor in determining the export potential of Fundy tidal power. By today's standards it seems expensive, more than that for currently available nuclear energy. But by 1983, Mr. Nantess thinks, the Annapolis project will be supplying Nova Scotia with power at prices comparable with those of other new generator sources.

That would enhance the possibility of an early, commercial larger scale development, particularly if U.S. export sales were linked to some form of reduced interest rate financing. "This possibility has been discussed, but only in the most hypothetical terms."

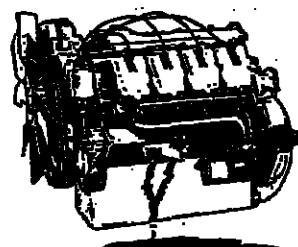
Environmental repercussions

However, the larger the site, the greater is the danger of adverse environmental repercussions. Test drilling in the bay has reduced fauna that increased water velocities associated with power dam construction might undermine the sea bed, stirring up vast additional amounts of turbine clogging silt. But changes in tidal range continue to cause concern.

Some people have suggested the tidal range might be affected by three feet or more, although a federal study found that, differences at most of the economically developable sites would be minimal. While a reduction in the height of the tides in the bay would reduce subsequent power generating capacity, the main problem lies in the rebound effect that this would have on other places along the Eastern Seaboard.

Low lying land in the U.S., including Boston Airport, might be flooded, a compromised tidal model has been developed and this is one of several areas of further tidal study that will be pursued, as well as on the Annapolis demonstration project, says another way this summer. At present it is believed that up to four major sites can be developed, without untoward effects.

For the many long-time advocates of tidal power who have "kept the faith" during the years of disavowal, Annapolis is a dream come true. For others, it is a nightmare unfolding.



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\$US 25,000,000—8½% 1972-1984

Holders of the above mentioned loan are hereby informed that the annual instalment of \$US 2,500,000—due August 1st, 1980 has been effected by bonds drawn by lot.

The drawing by lot took place on May 30th, 1980, in the presence of a notary public. The bonds remaining outstanding comprised between number 624 inclusive and number 4785 inclusive have been designated by lot and become redeemable at par on and after August 1st, 1980.

The principal amount of bonds outstanding after the amortisation of August 1st, 1980, will be \$US 12,500,000.

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Trustee

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The interest rate applicable to the above loan in respect of six months' period of 183 days commencing 11 June 1980 has been fixed at 9½% so that accordingly the interest payable in respect of such period (calculated on the basis of a year of 360 days for the actual number of days elapsed) will be made on 11 December 1980 at \$US 50,19791 per coupon.

The Fiscal Agent

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مكتبة المجلد

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It handles well, but it doesn't have a hard uncomfortable ride.

As a piece of engineering it's perfectly balanced.

Who can keep up with it?

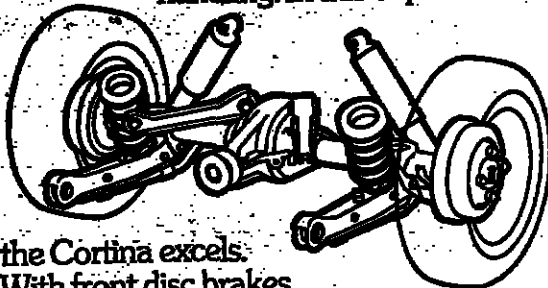
By no means everyone. The Cortina has more than enough acceleration to overtake quickly and decisively on country roads. And to cruise effortlessly at motorway speed limits.

	Max speed (mph)	0-60 (secs)
Cortina 1300 single venturi	87	16.1
Cortina 1600 single venturi	94	12.7
Cortina 1600 twin venturi	101	10.9
Cortina 2000 twin venturi	105	9.8
Cortina 2300 twin venturi	109	9.6

*Typical computer performance figures for manual transmission saloons.

Speed isn't everything

It's no use having a high top speed if it isn't balanced by safe, predictable handling. In this department



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Taking some of the labour out of servicing

Bulbs can be changed without tools.

Wheel bearings need no maintenance.

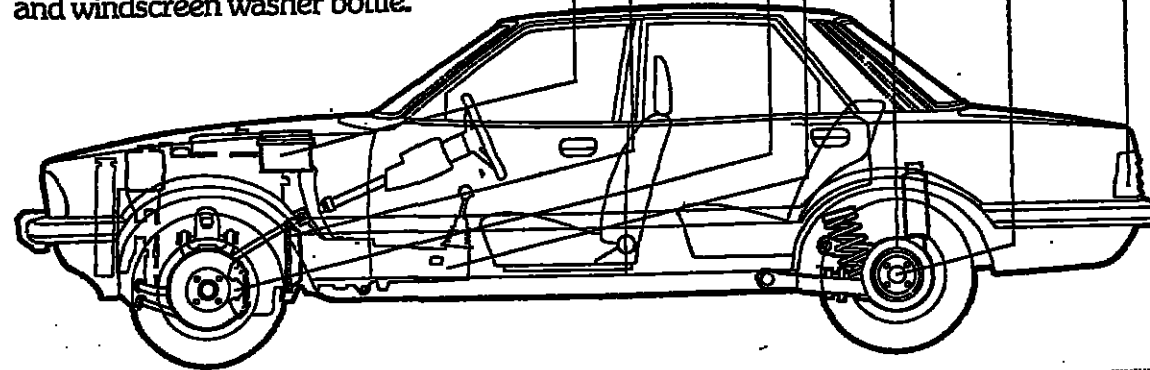
Brakes are self adjusting.

Axle and gear box oil doesn't need changing.

Brake wear can be checked without removing wheels.

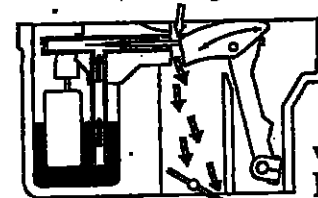
Clutch is self adjusting.

Check at a glance battery, brake fluid and windscreen washer bottle.



The Cortina only needs a full service once every 12,000 miles, with a minor service every 6,000 miles. Ford parts are moderately priced and the dealer network covers the country. How many cars of this size cost as little to keep on the road?

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Ford have developed a new carburettor with a single variable venturi. In plain English, this automatically adjusts itself to provide the most economical fuel/air mixture whether you're stuck in traffic or cruising on the motorway.

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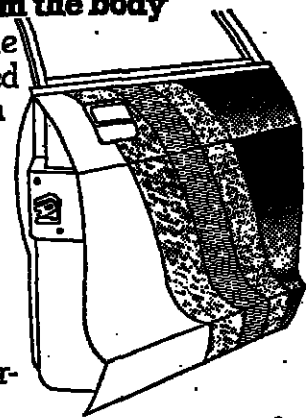
How many cars are this well equipped?

The specification of the Cortina Ghia includes: 1 Remote control door mirror. 2 Cut pile carpeting. 3 Rev. counter. 4 Cigar lighter. 5 3-speed heater fan. 6 Illuminated heater controls. 7 Two speed wipers with intermittent wipe and electric wash. 8 Centre console with radio/stereo cassette and quartz clock. 9 See through head restraints with detachable cushions. 10 Durham/crushed velour seat fabric. 11 Front and rear seat arm rests. 12 Tinted glass. 13 Trip recorder.

Keeping rust from the body

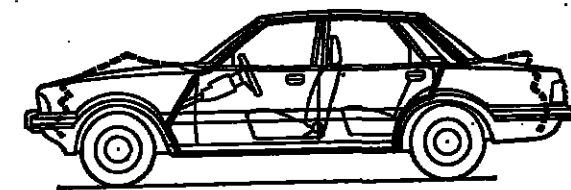
First the whole body shell is washed in an alkali solution and coated with zinc phosphate. Then it's totally immersed in anti-corrosive paint, using an electro-coating process to ensure 100% coverage. Then it gets a further coat of primer and three coats of tough enamel paint. All vulnerable areas like box sections and the insides of the doors are injected with wax. The wheel arches and vulnerable underbody areas are treated with chip resistant PVC coating. And the rear silencer is aluminised.

The Cortina is built to last.



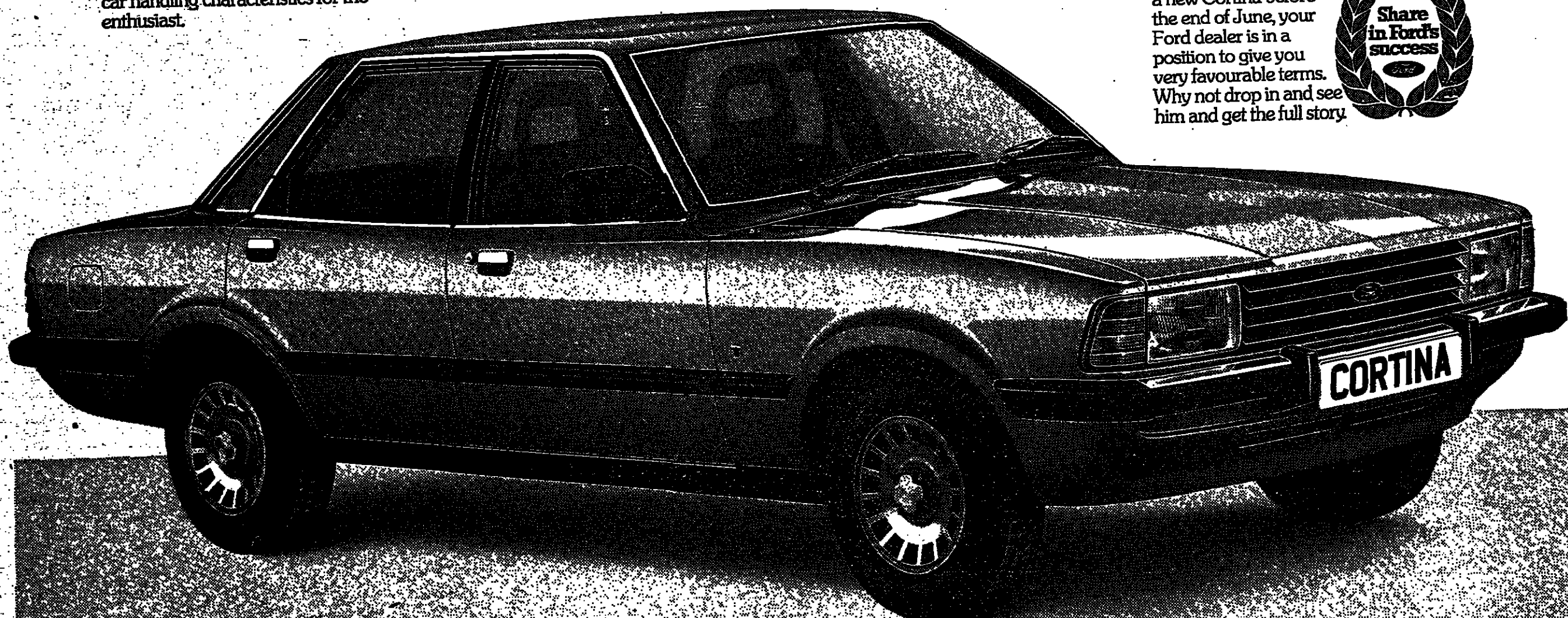
Safety is built in

The Cortina protects you in a rigid steel cage, while the bonnet and boot are designed to crumple progressively and absorb the impact in the event of a collision.



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UK NEWS - LABOUR

Pit closure policy would mean battle, say miners

BY PHILIP BASSETT AND CHRISTIAN TYLER

THE GOVERNMENT was warned yesterday by the National Union of Mineworkers that economic policies which led to pit closures could result in a battle with the miners as tough as that in 1972-73, which helped the last Conservative Government toward electoral defeat.
The warning was given further force at the Scottish Area conference of the NUM, where it became clear that Left-wing NUM leaders would mount a campaign in the coming months to prepare the miners for industrial action over pay this winter if necessary.
The NUM executive in a stormy meeting considered policies on coking coal imports and effects of the cut in the steel industry which they said had led to warnings about the future of a number of pits in South Wales.
Mr. Joe Gormley, NUM president, said after the meeting: "We shall resist as far as humanly possible the decimation of this industry."
The Government seemed perhaps to have forgotten the

lessons of the miners' strikes of 1972 and 1974. If the idea behind the warnings of pit closures was to create a mood of apprehension among the miners, "I can only warn the Government that it could have the reverse effect and get the lads' backs up even more than wages."
At the forefront of the coming campaign to win basic-rate increases of about 35 per cent this winter will be the Scottish miners, who at the conference in Rothesay, Isle of Bute, unanimously adopted a year demand for a minimum £100 a week for surface workers. The present basic rate is £73.65.
The demand implies a coal-face basic of about £140 against the present £102. It is likely to be carried by the union's national conference in three weeks' time.
Delegates declared yesterday that the claim was the result of genuine pressure from the rank-and-file feeling the pinch at home, and was moderate in the light of high inflation. Scottish miners have

generally done less well out of incentive bonus schemes than their English colleagues. Many receive no bonus at all, or sums of £5 to £10 a week compared with £50 to £100 in some English collieries.
Mr. Michael McCahey, the Scottish president, said: "Don't pass this resolution unless you believe in it and don't pass it unless you are prepared to fight for it. Don't let us mislead the membership."
There would have to be a campaign not only in Scotland but throughout the country.
He suggested that the wages campaign and the concurrent demand for a four-day week be linked with the candidacy of Mr. Arthur Scargill, Yorkshire Area president, for presidency of the union to succeed Mr. Gormley.
Mr. Gormley said yesterday that the executive had "without dissent" suggested he stay on for three years, until he was 65. He feared that his negotiating position with the NCB might be weakened by suggestions of his retirement.

Weighell backs proposals to end inter-union rivalry

BY PHILIP BASSETT, LABOUR STAFF

ACCEPTANCE by the National Union of Railwaymen of the TUC's proposals to reduce damaging inter-union friction on the railways would be a "giant step forward" for the union and the industry, Mr. Sid Weighell, NUR general secretary, said yesterday.

This week's conference of the train drivers' union, ASLEF, accepted the proposals, but motions to be debated at the NUR conference next month would, if passed, reject them. Mr. Weighell said he would oppose the motions.
In the meantime, an NUR sub-committee will consider the proposals, which define the two unions' spheres of influence on both British Rail and London Transport and seek to set up a joint railway trade union

council.
Mr. Weighell said the proposals would fundamentally alter the attitude of the NUR towards recruitment and negotiating rights which had changed little since 1872.
The text of the TUC's proposals makes it clear that they were drawn up after allegations of inter-union "poaching". The TUC has the power to adjudicate in the disputes, but the proposals suggest a final attempt to reach agreement.
Mr. Len Murray, TUC general secretary, says in the text: "I recognise that any agreement of this kind requires a spirit of compromise on the part of each union and a willingness to modify some existing practices in order to achieve mutual and longer-term gains."
The NUR has put forward a

resolution for debate at the Labour Party conference calling on the party and trade unions to determine the place of pay within a national economic and social plan.
Mr. Weighell makes a strong attack on Left-wingers in the Labour Party, and particularly on Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, in today's issue of the Left-wing paper Tribune.
He says: "People with personal ambitions to be considered as a future leader of the Labour Party must show us that they can free themselves from the dogmatism and jargon of certain sections of the Left."
Mr. Benn and others of the "so-called Left" should be applauding those who advocated a policy on incomes as a part of socialist planning, not opposing them, he says.

Unions 'under worldwide attack'

BY JOHN LLOYD, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

TRADE UNIONS throughout the industrialised world are suffering a co-ordinated attack on their rights from governments and employers, Mr. Eugen Loderer, president of the International Metalworkers' Federation, said yesterday.
Mr. Loderer, who is also president of the West German steelworkers' union, IG Metall, said Swedish employers had recently adopted lock-out tactics used by German companies.
In France and West Germany, companies were making increasing use of the courts to attack trade union rights, he said.
Mr. Loderer was introducing an International Metalworkers' Federation report. Trade Unions Under Attack, which is to be debated today at the federation's annual central com-

mittee meeting in London.
The document reviews a series of measures taken by governments and employers throughout the world which, it says, adds up to "an increased level of anti-union hostility."
It argues that Britain's Employment Bill, passing through Parliament, will "take away from workers some of their basic rights, reduce the legal responsibilities of employers, remove traditional trade union immunities and provide for judicial and legal interference in the way unions apply their rules on membership."
The report also claims that plans to reduce by £12 a week the social security benefit paid to the family of a striker "will directly hurt the innocent members of strikers' families."

Our Belfast Correspondent writes: The trade union movement must harden its determination to resist the "widespread strategy" and the attempts to drive unions back into a corner.
Mr. Moss Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said yesterday.
Mr. Evans told his union's All-Ireland delegate conference in Newcastle, Co. Down, that the foremost measure of a successful economy was whether it provided work for its people.
"If the answer to that question is no, then all the other tests we can apply—economic growth, the level of profit, investment—pale into insignificance," he said.

Action urged over CPSA dismissals

BY OUR LABOUR STAFF

BRANCHES of the Civil and Public Services Association, the biggest civil service union, are being urged by their executive to take industrial action today in support of a campaign to have two members reinstated.
Appeals have been lodged by the union against the dismissal of Mr. Philip Cordell and Mr. Richard Cleverley, clerical off-

icers and union activists working at the unemployment benefit office in Brixton, South London.
Action is expected to range from protest meetings to one-day strikes and will particularly affect computer centres, benefit and social security offices and job centres.
The union is expected to

mount further action—including stoppages over a three-week period at the Brixton office—and has not ruled out the possibility of co-ordinated national industrial action.
Management says the two men were dismissed for unauthorised absences but the union says management was told in advance of these.

Unions to fight Lucas pay-offs

By Arthur Smith, Midlands Correspondent

TRADE UNION officials remain determined to fight 3,900 redundancies at Lucas Electrical despite a flood of shop-floor volunteers.
"We shall be taking every step necessary to convince our members that to accept voluntary redundancy is not an easy answer," Mr. Ernie Hunt, Birmingham South District secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said last night.
The message has not yet got across to many workers that redundancy is worse than unemployment is worse than ever. Many employees, particularly those over 40, might never work again.
Workers who opted for redundancy against union advice would not be able to return to Lucas. Jobs vacated by volunteers might be blacked.

Such policies, said Mr. Hunt, forced Lucas Aerospace to "back off" and reduce redundancies in the Birmingham area from 800 to about 400.
Officials from the nine unions representing the 18,000 Lucas Electrical workers meet the company today, and will urge work-sharing rather than redundancies.
Lucas, which blames the action on the international recession in the motor industry, seems unlikely to make concessions.
Lucas has offered £1,200 above the legal requirement, which means that a worker with 20 years' service might pick up a lump sum of about £4,500.
Deadlock has been reached at Lucas Aerospace in the first negotiations of the next pay round. The company, after a union demand for 30 per cent, offered 400 production workers 10 per cent, worth £1 a week to skilled employees.

Offer rejection recommended

UNION NEGOTIATORS will recommend rejection of what they say is a 15 per cent pay offer to staff at the Legal and General, one of the country's largest insurance companies.
The company said the offer was worth about 22 per cent.
Talks between it and the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs at the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service broke down yesterday, after lasting all day.

Ford proposals rejected

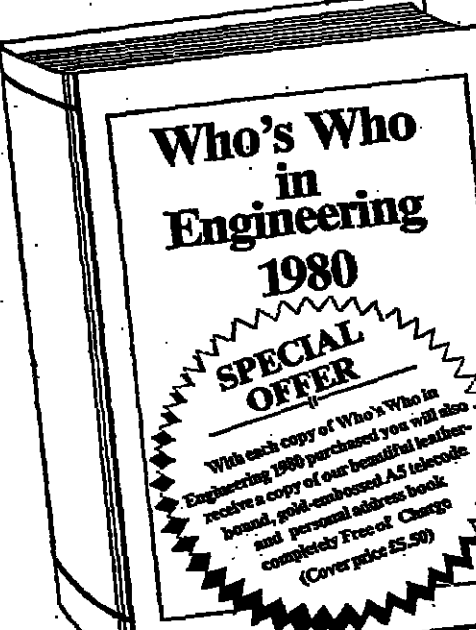
THE 4,000 hourly-paid production workers in the body and assembly plants at Ford Motor's Halewood site on Merseyside have rejected at a mass meeting the company's national proposals for changing working practices, linked to improved leave.
The proposals included a double day shift instead of a night shift, less time for tea breaks and an extra five days' leave. The 4,000 nightshift men will meet on Monday and are expected to make a similar decision.

Perkins vote

THE 7,000 production workers at the Perkins diesel engine plant in Peterborough, rejected advice of union leaders yesterday and voted for a 16 per cent pay increase although the union had demanded a 40 per cent rise. The decision came at a mass meeting when the men were urged to reject the company offer worth £18.24-£17.28 a week and backdated to April 1.

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What Car?, November 1979

"The 505's main appeal is that it is a particularly well balanced all-rounder, notable for its quietness and comfort."

Daily Telegraph, November 1979



505 GR Dashboard

"Quite simply, the 505 is an excellent motorcar... good at most things, excellent at some, and poor at none."

Motor, November 1979



505 STI Interior

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Sunday Telegraph, December 1979

"Ride and handling of the 505 was impressive. Towcar of the Year 1980, the Peugeot 505 SR."

Caravan, December 1979

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Car Magazine, December 1979

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Financial Times, December 1979

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this accolade, sponsored
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publisher of Europe's
largest Sunday
newspaper

Technical Page

EDITED BY ARTHUR BENNETT AND TED SCHOETERS

INSTRUMENTS

Locates underground water leaks

ESCAPES FROM buried water pipes reveal their presence by the noise they make but it is not always a simple matter to locate them—very accurately with conventional listening tubes, especially in the noisy conditions of busy streets.

Since inaccurate location can often mean wasted digging, the Water Research Centre recently commissioned Plessey's Electronic Systems Research Laboratory in Havant to develop a location instrument and the resulting unit, called the Leak Noise Correlator, can determine the position of most water leaks in pressurised pipes to within one metre.

Basic principle is that, if acoustic detectors are placed on either side of the suspected position of the leak (attached to fittings or standpipes) then the time difference of the arrival of sound signals will be a measure of the leak position.

Technique used in the instru-

ment is progressively to delay the signal from one transducer and multiply it by that from the other, plotting the result against time on a chart recorder.

The plot reaches a peak when the two signals (delayed from one transducer and undelayed from the other) are coincident in time, and the position of the peak from the start of the trace indicates the time difference. Then, knowing the speed of sound in water and the distance between the two detectors, the leak position can be found.

Position is determined to one metre and if two leaks happen to exist they will both show up on the plot.

Portable, the unit can be mounted on a vehicle and is easy to use.

Manufacture is being undertaken by Plessey AEA, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, (0493 58541).

COMMUNICATIONS

Stops unauthorised calls

MOST DIRECTORS and managers have a continuing uneasiness feeling that the company telephone system is being used for unwarranted private purposes by employees.

Some do not mind, regard it as an unavoidable expense and trust their employees to use the phones with consideration. For those that do mind and would like to put a stop to the practice, Telspec, of 15 The Boardway, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3JW, (0622 55946) have an equipment which, when it is approved by the Post Office, will be able to prevent various categories of unauthorised call.

Called Securitel, it operates on four levels of outgoing calls: no bar at all; no international subscriber dialling; no 'trunk dialling' (that is, local calls only can be made); and emergency calls only. Incoming calls are not affected.

ELECTRONICS

Tiny memory device

NATIONAL Semiconductor says it has produced the industry's smallest bubble memory package with release on a sample basis of the NBM2256, a 256k device in a dual-in-line package occupying a base area of 1.10 x 1.10 inches and having a height of 0.36 inch.

Operating at 100 kHz, the device has a data rate of 100 kilobits per second and a seven milliseconds average access time to the first bit of a random data block. Power dissipation is about 750 milliwatts.

The company has used direct stepping on the water during the projection lithography process which "prints" each circuit. Dimensions down to 1.5 microns are involved and the

storage cell size is only about 12 microns square. This makes possible a bit density of 670,000 bits/sq cm and results in an overall die size of only 300 x 320 mils.

It is intended to complement the bubble memory with four support circuits—controller, function driver, coil driver and sense amplifier—to give a complete bubble memory subsystem in only 9 sq ins of board area. Availability will be late this year but in the meantime a board with standard IC support will be supplied for evaluation purposes.

More from 301, Harpur Centre, Horne Lane, Bedford (0234 47147).

ENERGY

Prevents heat wastage

HUDDERSFIELD factory of T. H. Rayner and Son carries out commission-wool scouring, carbonising, bleaching and moth proofing, and can now save something like 120,000 therms a year with the installation of an ICCO recuperator from Spur Engineering, 132 Kenley Road, Merton Park, London, SW19 (01-540 4581).

The recuperator carries out the pre-heating duties of a 10,000 gallon water storage tank—supply source for several scouring lines used in the factory processes.

Pre-heating is achieved by extracting, and then utilising, waste heat from the exhaust gases of one of two 20,000 lb an hour steam boilers (made by Robey of Lincoln).

Demand for water in the scouring process is so high that heat recovery (which increases as greater calls are made upon water in this particular installation) is exceeding expectations, says the company.

Specifically, with a final exhaust gas temperature of 35 degrees C and below, an overall combustion efficiency of 98 per cent, and better, is being achieved; while high efficiencies are resulting in all ICCO installations, this is the highest to date calculated by Spur Engineering.

Apart from effecting big fuel savings, the installation is also

instrumental in providing sizeable water gains in creating water by gas condensates, said to be a major feature at the Huddersfield factory where water demand is high.

This stainless steel apparatus operates by condensing the water vapour of the exhaust gases—achieved by washing them by direct contact with water. Substantial quantities of both sensible and latent heat may be reclaimed and the heat re-utilised, either direct or through heat exchangers, for various applications such as hot water services for hospitals and hotels, heating of water for industrial processes (as at Huddersfield), swimming pools, underfloor heating, air heating, and any low grade heat requirement.

The recuperator may also be added to existing plant.

MATERIALS

Produces very strong joints

SAID TO be so versatile that it can replace half a dozen other glues in the typical wood-working shop is an adhesive called Rakoll Express TO 50 distributed in the UK by Sonneborn and Rieck, Jaxa Works, Peregrine Road, Hainault, Ilford, Essex (01-500 0251).

Although PVA-based dispersion glues are not rare, setting time and viscosity, in addition to economy, vary greatly in use of the material, says the company, but this one is very quick to set—even when applied in a relatively thick film on joints that are rough from the saw. It is economical in use and produces elastic but very strong joints.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Microfilm reduces need for paper

LARGE SCALE commitment of an organisation's paper documentation to microfilm is still an idea which engenders unease among many managers, efficiency, reliability and cost remaining the prime questions.

Two systems, a recorder and a sheet film retrieval system about to be marketed in the UK by A. B. Dick after considerable success in the U.S. should remove many doubts and also meet requirements for easy updating and retrieval of the fiche.

The recorder uses transparent electrophotographic film: an initial flash illuminated exposure of the film to the document via a lens system makes electro-sensitive patterns on the film surface to which a toner adheres and is fixed by a radiant heat exposure. Each image is permanently recorded in eight seconds. It cannot be removed, but can be overwritten and added to by subsequent exposures, allowing updating, or invalidation of one frame and its replacement by another.

The film does not become sensitive to light until placed in the recorder so that during external handling and storage it is virtually unaffected by normal office lighting.

Use of the machine, known as

By agreement between the Financial Times and the BBC, information from The Technical Page is available for use by the Corporation's External Services as source material for its overseas broadcasts.

System 200, is very simple. The operator simply hangs the fiche on a holder in a vertical receptacle, places the original on the copying horizontal platen, uses a keyboard to determine which of the 80 (or 96) fiche frame positions shall be filled, and presses the start button. Vacuum systems grasp the fiche, a cover slides over the original, exposures take place, and the fiche is ready for removal and handling in eight seconds.

Similarly, the image can be added to, but only after the operator overrides interlocks that normally prevent double exposure of a fiche position. The large, overprinted word "VOID" can be added in the same way. When a new fiche is being filled from the start of the top row (portrait mode is used for recording), the recorder will automatically step from one position to the next.

Although over 700 of these machines have been placed in the U.S. the company is only now starting earnest marketing in the UK. An early customer will probably be the Financial Times which plans to put international company data on to microfilm.

The problem of retrieving a frame of information from one fiche is of course, relatively simple using a modern projection reader with X-Y manipulation of the fiche; a frame can be found in a few seconds.

However, if there are a large number of fiche the right one has to be isolated, so that the problem once again assumes

overtones of paperwork.

To make this a simple matter a Cincinnati company called Access Information Control Systems has for some time been selling a retrieval machine in the U.S.—there are some 6,000 installations—and is now making it available in the UK through A. B. Dick (88 High Street, Brentford, Middlesex, TW8 8BA, 01-568 8899).

It consists of a selection unit which holds the fiche, stacked vertically side by side, in a number of cartridges. Each cartridge, about the size of a couple of shoeboxes placed end to end, holds fiche equivalent of 2,000 sheets of paper. Associated with the retrieval unit is a free-standing keyboard console with one-line electronic display.

Each of the fiche is held in a jacket of special design. Along the bottom edge is a pattern of notches and on the front vertical edge a miniature magnet.

The notches are specifically related to the number of the fiche, normally held in physical index; when the number is entered on the keyboard, the appropriate fiche is pulled out of the stock by means of a system of ascending longitudinal bars that locate (or not) into notches. A bar magnet running the length of the stack tries to pull out all the fiche by means of their small magnets, but only those programmed to do so by the bars will actually emerge.

An important feature of the Access System 60 is that a fiche can be put back into the

stack entirely at random; when keyed again it will always be extracted by the mechanism.

The notches on the jacket bottom edges are programmed also by the keyboard, which at that time is connected to a notching machine in which the fiche is placed. Wear on the notches is said to be negligible since there are no appreciable contact forces.

By manipulation of the stacks of fiche and their presentation to the magnet/bar selection unit, the equivalent of 1,000 filing cabinets can be stored—the Access System M—and retrieval time still does not exceed 14 seconds for one fiche.

The recorder supplied in the 60 frame/fiche format costs a little under £20,000 and the cost of fiche is £1.6p each. The Access selection equipment has a starting price of about £6,000 while the big System M costs £112,000.

It is understood that A. B. Dick is about to take a more comprehensive approach to information retrieval; it will embrace computer systems where necessary and will be able to draw on the resources of its new parent, the General Electric Company.

It sees no competition between computer and microfilm, claiming that even in well computerised companies only 2 or 3 per cent of the information that has to be kept is in a computer store—but very little of the archival, semi-archival and original document material.

GEOFFREY CHARLISH

TEXTILES

Resistance of fabrics to fire

A NEW piece of test equipment has been developed in Yorkshire by a British company for monitoring the effects of flame applied to sample fabrics.

The model 280 flammability tester of James H. Heal and Co. (Richmond Works, Halifax, W. Yorks. 0422 66355) has been designed to provide data that will conform with the British Standard BS 5348 and it is likely that it may well be easy to adapt to meet all the proposed regulations of the ISO—International Standards Organisation.

Basically the tester comprises a vertical frame on which a specimen is hung. In the first test a butane gas flame is applied to test the ease of ignition of the fabric by a controlled flame exposure. The second test measures the extent and duration of fabric flaming and afterglow after the source of ignition has been removed. The third, and final test requires a supplementary flame and an additional control module which measures the rate of flame spread simultaneously both vertically and horizontally.

Because of its modular construction the tester can provide data about all aspects of a fabric's flammability behaviour, while it may, in a simpler context, allow for effective checks of "burn/non-burn" to be made by dyers and finishers with a minimum of delay, but with reliability.



SERVICES

Special designs on glassware

BECAUSE GLASSWARE manufacturers have decreed minimum order requirements, advertising and promotional glassware has been restricted to larger organisations. A company says that it can now offer commemorative glass items in very small quantities—and is prepared to produce a special one-off—due to its process called Seriverte.

This involves screen printing a design, company logo, etc., directly into the glass and uses enamels which are set into the material thus allowing the glass surface to retain its smoothness and lustrous appeal.

Medium-sized organisations can order glassware in moderate quantities which carry their own artwork or designs specially prepared for them by a panel of artists working at the studio of Pettis Studio Glass, Adams Pool, Chedworth, Cheltenham, Glos. (01-868 3784).

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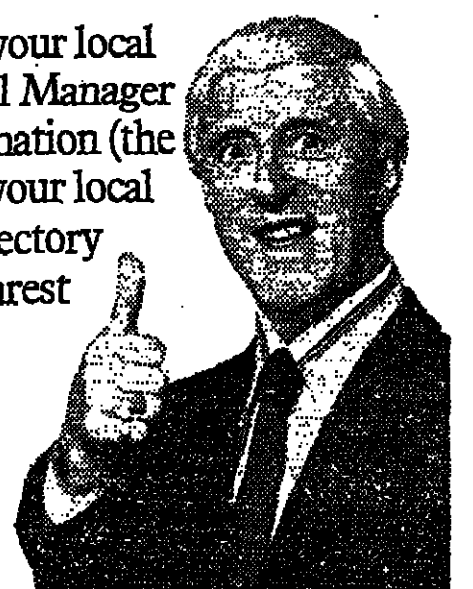
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THE PROPERTY MARKET

BY MICHAEL CASSELL

Aquis sells biggest asset to Matheson

AQUIS SECURITIES is selling Atlas House in London's Cheap-side—accounting for over half the company's total property investment portfolio—for £9.25m cash to Bepheach, a subsidiary of Matheson, the shipping to insurance group.

For Matheson, in turn a subsidiary of Hong Kong trading group Jardine Matheson, the deal represents a return to the property market after its sale last year of Reunion Properties to Hammerson for £42.5m cash. More of the proceeds could yet be involved in other property purchases.

The decision by Aquis, the property investment and development group which last year recorded a fall in pre-tax profits from £520,000 to £294,000, has created considerable surprise in view of the historic importance of Atlas House to the company.

Purchased in 1972 for £8.5m from Guardian Royal Exchange, the building is now—with a property collapse in between—in the books at £5.25m. Last year it brought in £445,000 in rental income.

More significant, however, is the potential of the 40,000 sq ft building where the lease falls due in September 1981. Last year, Aquis received full planning consent for a refurbishment scheme and there were clear hopes of a big boost in rental income and an uplift in asset values per share.

But Aquis, in which GRE

holds a 65 per cent interest, has decided on another course of action and the reasoning behind its move will be set out in a shareholders' circular due out today. An extraordinary general meeting to approve the sale will be held at the end of this month.

Mr. John Bateman, Aquis managing director and a former GRE man, said yesterday that the group believed Atlas House gave it a disproportionate part of its portfolio in the City (which some might see as a laudible weakness) and that the company had to contemplate heavy expenditure to bring the property up to date.

"I am afraid that although the building, parts of which date back a very long way, looks fine externally, a great deal needs to be done inside and the costs involved will be very substantial," Mr. Bateman added.

The question of what Aquis will do with the cash raised by the sale remains uncertain. There does not seem to be any particularly pressing reason for such an exercise and the funds seem likely to be spread between new developments and investment deals.

As for GRE, it is clearly supporting the Cheapside deal and, despite suggestions that the move could trigger off some form of reorganisation of interests, the likelihood is that the insurance group's position will remain substantially unchanged.

Pru goes to Leeds

THE PRUDENTIAL is to forward fund, at a cost of £5m, the first two phases of a planned £12m development in the centre of Leeds.

These will provide 39,150 sq ft of offices at Coverdale House, 13-15 East Parade, due for completion in December this year, and a further 44,450 sq ft of offices at Lonsdale House, also in East Parade, due for completion March 1981.

Project managers are Landmark Development Consultants and Abacus, a subsidiary of Sir Robert McAlpine, are the developers. Joint letting agents Bernard Thorpe and Strutt and Parker say that an asking rent of £5.50 a sq ft will be sought for both schemes.

The freehold of the sites is owned by the City Council and a 125-year lease, presently held by Abacus, will pass to the Pru on completion. Three further developments—providing a further 100,000 sq ft of offices—on adjacent sites are planned by Abacus and Landmark but funding has still to be arranged.

These are not due for completion until 1983-84 at the earliest. The central Leeds office market has over the past decade shown a stability which compares well with other major provincial markets. Rents have moved steadily upwards over the decade punctuated by periodic plateaus rather than reversals—in marked contrast to the boom and bust record of cities like London, Manchester and Birmingham.

Approval of European Ferries' ambitious scheme, which MPs of every persuasion

Final curtain in the South Bank show

ANNOUNCEMENTS on the future of London's two controversial South Bank development sites appear only days away and those who stalk the corridors of power say that while the European Ferries scheme will be approved, neither Commercial Properties nor Greycoat London Estates will be so lucky.

Reports from planning inquiry inspectors which have for some time been with Mr. Michael Heseltine, Secretary for the Environment, are understood to have given the go-ahead to the 300,000 sq ft office and apartments complex planned by Euro-Ferries for the south side of Vauxhall Bridge.

Mixed schemes put forward by Commercial Properties and Greycoat London Estates, involving the Coin Street site which stretches along the south bank between Waterloo and Blackfriars bridges, are believed, however, to have been turned down.

There is no guarantee that Mr. Heseltine will accept his inspectors' recommendations (a vociferous lobby of Conservative MPs opposed to the irreversibly if incorrectly dubbed "green giant" scheme at Vauxhall might well mean the Minister would prefer to see the outcome swapped and there are indeed suggestions he has asked for briefs to support such a reversal). It nevertheless seems unlikely that the recommendations will be overturned at this stage.

Approval of European Ferries' ambitious scheme, which MPs of every persuasion

could watch taking shape across the river, would vindicate its decision last year to call for a public inquiry in a move to put short protected negotiations with Lambeth Council. Euro Ferries, chaired by Keith Wickenden, who also has a plot on the north side of the Thames in his capacity as MP for Dorking, believes the profit potential for the scheme is enormous and claims to have several big tenants already lined up.

As for Coin Street, a refusal to allow the large-scale commercial schemes put forward at last year's marathon inquiry (could London Weekend Television's comparatively limited plans scrape through?) will presumably help pave the way for the much-cherished plans of local community groups who, with the support of Lambeth Council, say such sites should provide homes and not offices.

Watched

Whatever the outcome, events will no doubt be closely watched by the Proprietors of Days Wharf, which wants to redevelop 25 acres of south bank between Tower Bridge and London Bridge. It hopes, however, that in dealing with South-west planners—who have indicated they are not opposed in principle to office schemes where planning gains are also involved—it will have a much easier ride.

Another interested observer will be Stuart Holland, Labour MP for Vauxhall, who is the first to accept that he is unlikely to be nominated for any

awards by developers unless they devise an "outstanding nuisance" category.

Mr. Holland wears such unpopularity easily and at the Coin Street inquiry gave evidence in support of the plans put forward by local community groups. He has subsequently and enthusiastically pursued an anti-office development campaign, not only in respect of his own constituency but in terms of London as a whole. The capital, he says, desperately needs housing while there is no proven need for a major expansion in office space.

Mr. Holland does admit that, if permission were given, developments at both Coin Street and Vauxhall may find tenants but he claims that the development industry, by its failure to detect a fundamental shift in the type and pattern of demand for office space, is heading for another disaster.

Mr. Holland dismisses suggestions that the development industry, in the absence of a significant level of speculative activity, is now much less exposed and claims that, whatever the developers say, there is a building boom now under way in London. "I am not saying there is an oversupply of office space but there is a definite trend towards it, with as much as 10m sq ft of new accommodation either planned or under way."

"What the industry has not seemed to grasp is that we are no longer talking about swings in a cyclical industry which have traditionally brought booms and crises. It appears to be ignoring the continuing

trend to decentralise from London because of the high costs involved and mounting employee resistance to commuting and, perhaps, more importantly, has failed, almost totally, to appreciate the impact which new technology is certain to have on office employment."

Mr. Holland says that, in addition, the total cost of providing new office space in central London are becoming prohibitive—not simply from the developer's point of view but for the community as a whole.

"People invariably mention the rate income generated by a new scheme but the public expenditure per head on overhead capital and services for offices can be immense and can easily offset any income in that direction."

"The fact is that whether you talk about social costs or likely levels of demand for future space no-one appears to have made any efforts to think it through. It is scandalous that everything can apparently be left so readily to market forces but on that basis alone I believe the central London office scene could be heading for serious trouble."

"It is all very well to take to a short-term view: if as a developer or contractor you are in and out of a project, but those involved in funding and looking for a long-term source of rents, profits and dividends must adopt a different approach. The prospects warrant a much closer examination than in the past when a good office block in central London was automatically assumed to be a good investment."

IN BRIEF

SLOUGH ESTATES has acquired an 8 acre site near Hanover airport in West Germany where it plans a 200,000 sq ft mixed industrial and office development. Total cost of the scheme is estimated at between £4m and £5m, including land purchase. Work on a first phase of 60,000 sq ft is expected to be completed this Autumn. Weatherall Green and Smith are letting agents.

Strathclyde Regional Council Superannuation Fund has, through Richard Ellis, paid £2.3m for a shop unit with 12,055 sq ft of retail space in the first phase of Lincoln's new Cornhill shopping development. Vendors of the store, let to W. H. Smith on a 20-year lease at current £72,500, were Lincoln's Corn Exchange and Market, represented by Healey and Baker.

Bernard Thorpe has let 700,000 sq ft of industrial space in Antwerp in the first five months of this year compared with its own earlier forecast of 650,000 sq ft for the whole of 1980. In the latest deal 200,000 sq ft has been let to Concordia Mail, a postal company. A rental of only 45p a sq ft—even though this is an older building—shows that the Antwerp industrial market has still some way to go before the corner is turned.

Estates and General Investments are to develop a £2.5m mixed industrial and warehouse scheme providing 61,000 sq ft of space at Simonds Road, Weyton, E10.

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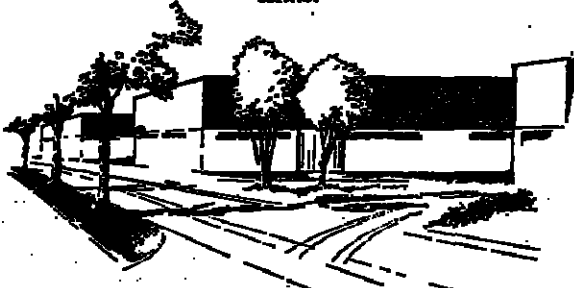
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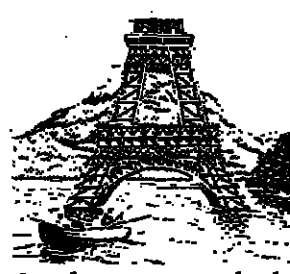
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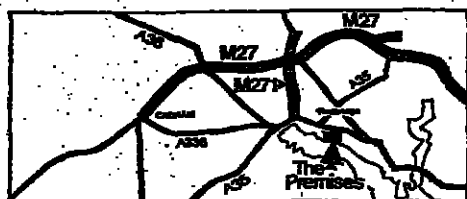
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APPOINTMENTS

Senior position at BICC

BICC has appointed Mr. H. G. (Oscar) DeVillie, vice-chairman, as executive deputy chairman from July. Sir Kenneth Barrington remains non-executive deputy chairman. In his new position Mr. DeVillie will be responsible with the chairman, Sir Raymond Fennock, for the executive operations of the company including the four main group companies: Balfour Beatty, BICC Cables, BICC Industrial Products, and BICC INTERNATIONAL.

Lord Carrington has appointed Lord Kinnerley chairman of the COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION for a period of three years from July 1 in succession to Lord Grey of Naunton, who retires on June 30.

INTERNATIONAL DISTILLERS AND VINTNERS has made the following appointments: Mr. George Bull, while retaining his overall responsibility as deputy managing director of the group, will relinquish his direct responsibility for IDV Europe and will assume the IDV Management responsibility for Fadington and Carillon in the U.S. Mr. Geoffrey Palm will be retiring on March 31, 1981, and during the intervening period, Mr. Bull will also progressively take over responsibility as chairman of IDV Export. Mr. Christopher Persman is appointed managing director, IDV Europe, covering operations in Spain, Portugal, France, Germany and Wine Selection International but excluding Ireland where Mr. David Dand is managing director of Gibbers & Ireland will be reporting direct to IDV's managing director Mr. Anthony Tennant. Mr. James Espey will take over from Mr. Palm responsibility for Australia, New Zealand and the group's interests in the Far East.

Mr. G. W. Sutton, chairman of Sutton Riley Engineering, has been elected president of the ASSOCIATION OF MINING ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS.

Mr. François Mayer, managing director of Rothschild Investment Trust, has been appointed to the board of TARGET LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Mr. Seamus Waring has succeeded Mr. Jack Webb as managing director of EKMAN CLEAVE (IRELAND) following his retirement.

The NATIONAL WATER COUNCIL has appointed Mr. John Meredith as assistant director (industrial relations) in its manpower services division.

KUEHNE AND NAGEL has appointed three resident executives in Salisbury for its new Zimbabwe subsidiary.

Mr. D. K. Jones has been appointed managing director of TALKIUM (UK). He has the responsibility for the company's activities in both the UK and Europe.

The Secretary for Energy has appointed Lord Kinnerley as a part-time member of the UNITED KINGDOM ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY for one year.

Lord Pritchard has retired from the boards of GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE AND GUARDIAN ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Mr. Joseph E. Hinde has been appointed chairman of the council of members and of the board of directors of ERA TECHNOLOGY. Mr. F. J. Lane, who retires from those positions, has become honorary president of ERA and he remains a non-executive director of the ERA board.

Mr. Nick Buckley has been appointed marketing director of RENAULT TRUCKS AND BUSES. Mr. Barry Gibson is now field service manager.

Mr. Richard A. Barry and Mr. Kjell G. Finstad have been appointed vice presidents in the technical division of SAGA PETROLEUM AS. Mr. Barry continues in charge of the engineering and production and Mr. Finstad of the exploration section.

Patricia A. Walker has become company secretary of the WADKIN GROUP.

Mr. Gordon G. Smith has been elected chairman and Mr. Dennis Evans, vice-chairman, of the council of the SOCIETY OF COMPANY AND COMMERCIAL ACCOUNTANTS. The chairman of the council holds the appointment for one year and is also president of the Society.

Mr. Philip L. Klein has joined the Board of Saturn Lease Underwriting and Mr. Russell Peadar has been made a director of Mansionsplace. Both companies are members of the MERCANTILE HOUSE GROUP.

Mr. Patrick Cox has been appointed executive vice-chairman of RADIO LUXEMBOURG (LONDON).

Mr. J. E. Mason has been appointed by LEVLAND VEHICLES as product engineering director, heavy vehicle division. He was previously chief engineer, vehicle engineering, H.V.D.

Mr. R. W. Korum, of Wood Gundy, has succeeded Mr. A. C. Paterson, of the Union Discount Company of London, as temporary secretary of the INTERNATIONAL CD MARKET ASSOCIATION.

Mr. Hideo Makita, president of NKK (NIPPON KOKAN KK) is to retire from that post and he will become chairman of the Board. His successor will be Mr. Minami Kameo, executive vice president. The changes will follow on June 27.

Mr. Barry Homer has been appointed company secretary of CRUISE GROUP in succession to Mr. Leslie Heritage, who has retired.

MERCANTILE CREDIT COMPANY has appointed Mr. Peter Moore as regional general manager of its northern region and a member of its management Board.

Mr. Michael Jones has become executive vice president of the TRUSTHOUSE FORTIS group's Travelodge International. It is an American company based in San Diego, California. This is a new post and Mr. Jones now has responsibility for the operation and development of Travelodge hotels across North America. He is succeeded by Mr. Michael Finkelman as operations director, Post Houses in the UK.

Mr. A. F. Fortescue has been elected chairman of LYON LOHR HOLDINGS and chief executive of the group from July 1. Mr. S. H. I. Barber, who has been chairman since June 30 and becomes president. At the same time he retires from the Boards of Lyon De Palbe International, Lyon Lohr Reinsurance Consultants, Lyon Lohr Systems and Lyon De Palbe Underwriting Agencies. Mr. Barber retires from the Lyon Lohr Holdings Board on April 5, 1981.

Mr. Bill Boulton, Mr. Brian Howes and Mr. David Northcroft, executives of KIMBERLEY-CLARK, have been appointed to the Board.

Mr. James Grealish has been appointed managing director of T. Bridger and Son and Mr. Richard Ford has become managing director of a newly formed company, CURRYE (P.T.A.). The parent concern is CURRYE.

Mr. Peter Middleton has been appointed managing director of J. PARKINSON AND SON (SHIPLEY), succeeding Mr. Norman Stewart who has resigned. Mr. Middleton was previously managing director at J. Shirk and Sons.

A FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

HONG KONG

JULY 7 1980

The Financial Times proposes to publish a Survey on Hong Kong in its edition of July 7. The editorial synopsis is set out below:

INTRODUCTION The past three years have seen Hong Kong make a great leap forward both economically and in its relations with China. Can it now consolidate its gains in the face of more adverse external circumstances?

THE ECONOMY Successive years of growth find the economy more diverse and mature but wondering whether it can make a soft landing from high inflation, an extravagant property boom and rampant money growth in the face of a possibly severe world recession.

CHINA RELATIONS The extraordinarily rapid development of relations with a modernising post-Mao China has done wonders for confidence in Hong Kong. Immigration from China remains a major problem for overcrowded Hong Kong. Also Hong Kong as a source of investment, skills and market for China.

GUANGDONG RELATIONS A look at various developments in transport and industry in the neighbouring province and Shenzhen industrial area.

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THE MANAGEMENT PAGE

EDITED BY CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

WITH BETTER quality management now one of China's most urgent priorities, the new Chinese Enterprise Management Association has begun to make contact with selected western management organisations. One of the first delegations to be received, on a recent three-week visit, was from the UK's Association of Teachers of Management.

The Chinese association was established just over a year ago, and charged with the task of professionalising the country's industrial management. It forms part of the State Economic Commission, the Peking government's top industrial supervisory body. In addition to representatives of the commission, its

membership includes the directors of factories (top management) and university professors.

In addition to its direct talks with the association, the UK delegation — consisting of 15 people from industry, consultancies, business schools, universities and polytechnics — met managers at a dozen factories all over China, as well as academics in the new departments of enterprise management at leading Chinese universities. So it gained an unusually detailed picture of the turbulent wind of change now blowing through Chinese industry. In the articles below, and on Monday, the leader of the delegation, Bob Garratt, examines some of the undercurrents.

How China's managers are trying to move mountains

Bob Garratt looks behind the scenes at China's new industrial revolution and discovers a vivid contrast of stress and success



Chinese contrasts: the traditional commune factory (left), and the modern State plant

DIMLY ILLUMINATED by a few string-suspended light bulbs, more than half the workshop's machines lie idle on the rammed earth floor. Round those in operation crowd a large group of workers, their actions hampered by the jumbled layout of the factory. In a shed next door sit 10 lathes, made 5 years ago but still waiting for the customer to deliver its barter products in exchange.

Little more than a stone's throw away, you find a contrast that could hardly be more stark. In a brightly-lit modern hall, the most up-to-date computer-controlled

machine tools are carefully laid out on a concrete floor. There are far fewer operatives, and many speak fluent English.

Both plants are in North-east Shanghai. The first belongs to the Jiang Wan Commune, the second—the Shanghai Machine Building Factory—to the State. In microcosm, they represent China's new industrial revolution: the traditional commune factory, which grew and was managed in disorganised fashion; and the carefully planned enterprise, newly equipped to world-class standards, making advanced products, and now designated

"key" as part of the government's acceptance of the virtues of elitism.

Yet from their very different starting points, both organisations are having to rethink their attitudes and practices in order to contribute to Peking's new national objective of more than tripling per capita income to U.S.\$1,000 by the year 2000.

The target was formulated earlier this year as part of the change in policy which followed the disgracing of the "Gang of Four"—which provided the necessary scapegoat for China's slow industrial growth, and freed Chinese minds to rethink

their approach to industrialisation.

The "pragmatic" policy which has been adopted during the nationally-declared "period of economic readjustment" comprises many elements. Two of the most obvious are the shift in industrial emphasis from the production of heavy goods towards consumerism, and the first steps away from centralised planning and control towards decentralised autonomy in each enterprise. To the individual enterprise and worker one of the most evident expressions of the new philosophy has been the introduction of a system

of cash incentives with an ambitious list of aims: improving productivity, raising standards of product quality and safety at work, increasing the efficiency of materials usage, and generally improving cost control.

Given that the "new pragmatism" represents such a radical rethink of the accepted Chinese Communist concept of a developing socialist state, it is not surprising that everyone concerned is experiencing intellectual stress on social and economic concepts, as well as political.

The problems of relaxing the rigours of State economic

planning are coinciding with the pain and uncertainty of managers and workers in each enterprise having to learn how to grapple with their new internal economics.

The traditional emphasis was firmly on output to meet the State quotas. Now each enterprise is being encouraged to make a production surplus and sell it to other enterprises.

In a product-starved economy this could be achieved simply by traditional selling and advertising techniques. But the more far-sighted Chinese managers and professors realise that two fundamental and allied pro-

cesses—design and marketing in its full Western sense—will be needed before any real "management" of an enterprise can be achieved.

Equally, while the ability to think of an enterprise as an independent economic unit with its own brain, sensors, resources and markets seems to be missing in most current Chinese managerial thinking, there are signs of growing realisation that something is not right in the present approach to "management," and that the source of the problem may lie in the relationship between the State and each enterprise.

In particular, managers within certain enterprises—especially those trading internationally—are beginning to feel that a change in financial concepts is needed. At present, the finances of each enterprise are not measured by any Western notion of profitability, as all selling prices are fixed by the State, and input costs are not computed against them. For the many Chinese managers, the word "profit" seems to have come to refer to the enterprise's surplus of production over and above the State quota. "Pragmatism" still has a long way to go.

Incentives at an efficient 'key' factory

IN SPITE of all the political turbulence in China over the past decade, the State-owned Shanghai Machine Building Factory has succeeded in gradually raising its performance to a world-class standard—in terms both of the quality of its products and the productivity of its labour force.

Offering a range of 50 grinding machines—many of them advanced even by western standards—and now making 2,000 units a year, it has established itself in a series of competitive export markets: not only East European countries such as Romania, but also Australia, Canada and the very home of modern capitalism, the United States.

It was because of its outstanding performance that the factory was declared a "key" enterprise by the State Economic Commission, and encouraged to forge an "advanced pathfinder" role in the four areas which are now of main concern for Chinese industry: the encouragement of efficiency and lower costs; the improvement of quality, new directions in worker participation; and developing the freedom of enterprises to market some of their production outside the State quota system.

As with all Chinese enterprises, the Shanghai factory is the focus of both work and social life for its 6,000 workers (1,700 of whom are women). It provides sanitarium, clinical, creche, nursery and disability care, public bathhouses, housing and sports facilities. Fellow workers have a major say in such decisions as an individual's marriage, his size of family, and his travel. This may seem objectionable to a western observer, but is an accepted way of life in China.

The factory is ultimately controlled by the local Party Com-

mittee. But the committee's role now seems to have changed to one of intervention only in exceptional circumstances, and the senior local manager, the Factory Director, now has the crucial coordinating task for both day-to-day and longer-term planning activities. Beneath him are eight manufacturing workshops, 19 administrative departments, and two educational units.

As this structure suggests, the excessive use of relatively untrained personnel which was encouraged by the Cultural Revolution has, to an extent, been replaced by a more Western system of organising industrial work.

Key factories are being used as the spearhead of the industrial modernisation movement. They are encouraged to experiment with working structures and processes, and with the relationship between State (macro) economics and single-enterprise (micro) economics—a link which is little understood in Chinese industry.

In the Shanghai factory, as elsewhere, a radical break has been made with the immediate past in order to cope with the State's new requirement for improvements in production, quality and worker participation. Both on a group and on an individual basis competition has been introduced through a system of cash incentives and penalties.

At one level, workshops, work teams, departments and work groups (the smallest unit, comprising 15-20 people) compete with each other, while within each work group the individual workers also compete with each other.

Both the group and the individual incentive systems were initiated by the State, and have been available since early this year, but each factory has considerable freedom to tailor its own group scheme, whereas the details of its individual scheme are nationally imposed: a 14-15 per cent annual bonus

for "above average" workers which must be given to 40 per cent of each work group, distribution being decided within the group itself by the famous national process of consensus.

In the Shanghai factory, the work group incentive system is made as public as possible by the use of blackboards at each work space. These display competitive performances, and are updated on a daily and weekly basis.

The group incentive system is operated by the factory's "trade union" and its technical department. They decide the criteria for selecting the winning group and the size of the prize, which is both cash and "public-spirited praise." Groups are examined to check the technical merits of their ideas, and the winner's members are then given a monthly bonus of between 5 and 10 Yuan for the next year (74 to 15 per cent of the average monthly wage).

Special merit bonuses can be given to individual workers for their performance as "advanced pathbreakers" of whom there were eight in 1979, but the main individual competition is for the 14-15 per cent annual bonus for "above average" workers. Penalties are also imposed in the important areas of safety and machine maintenance. The first time a worker is late he loses one-third of his monthly bonus, twice and two-thirds are lost, three times and the whole is lost. Spot checks are made monthly on workers' machines to check maintenance, and any worker achieving less than 60 per cent of the target set by the technical department loses his bonus.

In a cash-starved economy such incentives and penalties have highly motivating effects but Western observers should not assume that their introduction in China will lead to the rapid alienation of those workers who do not get them, or that the gradual accumulation of cash will create a materialism in which the incentives lose their effect. The last 30 years have seen

the development of strong grass-roots industrial democracy in China, and it is on this strength that the country is building. Within each work group representatives have been selected to give special attention to six key issues: Quality; Safety; Maintenance; Finance; Welfare; and Propaganda (propagating the message of how to be a "good Chinese").

These are taken very seriously as group tasks, and as it is culturally normal not to be seen as individually meritorious, despite Party encouragement for everyone to strive to be an expert, the group decision process on such issues as the individual bonus has not until now been as disruptive as many Westerners might have expected.

Many of the Shanghai factory's activities have a "teaching company" flavour, though its members are reluctant to emphasise this role. Since 1970 it has sent some 2,600 workers to five other plants to help them improve their standards.

This rapid dissemination of ideas and practices is proving to be a powerful factor in the growth of less fortunate machine tool plants, and also an effective "research" source on which they can draw quickly. Western and Japanese ideas are now being studied in the factory and the notions of Total Quality Control, Quality Circles and Value Analysis are being introduced as pilot studies.

The fourth area of experimentation for "key" factories, developing the freedom to market some of their production outside the State quota planning system, is currently proving the most difficult area conceptually. The Shanghai factory can cover its six-monthly state quotas with 80 per cent of its production. This leaves 20 per cent surplus production capacity, which is confusingly referred to as "profit"—a definition we found in every Chinese factory, though it seems to be a relatively new concept.

This surplus can now be sold at the State price to other interested enterprises at home or abroad. So advertising is the main outlet at the moment is the Shanghai

Machinery Fair, but the factory is experimenting with advertising its surplus capacity on television, radio and in the newspapers, and has even started using sales representatives within the last few months.

From such sales, the factory's managers hope to make about 30 per cent "true" profit, with which they will develop new products and markets and still be able to make the cash incentive even more attractive.

Because the factory's products are in such demand, managers seem untroubled by a question which is worrying many other plants in China—what will happen if they are unable, for whatever reason, to sell their surplus?

... and at a confused commune

ONLY A few kilometres from the Shanghai Machine Building Factory is the Jiang Wan Commune. It presents a complete contrast. Covering 20 square kilometres, it provides a living for 16,700 people in 4,620 families. It is a compact administrative unit with its own farms, factories, hospitals, nurseries and creches, repair shops, housing and bank.

The commune's main focus, the farms, provide 300,000 Shanghai workers with their daily vegetables and protein needs. The commune conducts its own research programmes into cattle and pig breeding, both of which are a major part of its activities.

In terms of vegetable and protein production, Jiang Wan Commune is outstanding, but when it comes to its communally-owned factories it is another story, both in its own terms and in comparison with the Shanghai Machine Building Factory. Yet factories like those in Jiang Wan represent the vast majority in China and suffer from enormous structural problems.

The commune's factories are a mixture of agricultural machinery building and repair shops, with a foundry, and small jobbing shops for subcontract work from bigger fac-

tries in the city. This sequence of activities tells the history of the commune's development away from its initial agricultural base.

Whereas the Machine Building Factory is a well thought-through organisation, the commune factories seem to have grown in a random fashion. They fulfil their State quotas and are striving to achieve "richness" within the commune through diversifying into profitable sideline activities, but the design, layout, machine utilisation and management of these small factories would be a Western production manager's nightmare.

There seem to be missing layers of supervisors, technicians, and middle managers, so that the vital day-to-day problems of co-ordination, and allocating resources are not dealt with smoothly. The workers work hard but the conditions betray the proud heritage of "self-reliance" from the Cultural Revolution of the late 1960s, when the machines and factory buildings were self-built and neither worker safety nor pollution control were considered important enough to be taken seriously.

It is now being realised that although communal factories are highly effective at providing local employment and additional income for the commune, they are highly inefficient in their use of machinery, raw materials and labour.

Whether, as the State planners intend, it is sensible to try radically to raise the productivity of such factories is a moot point, since this might only diminish their ability to provide local employment.

This is not to say that the communal factories should be excluded from the new "pragmatism" and incentives system. They should figure large in the total rethink which is still needed in China about the roles of an enterprise and its management. For communes like Jiang Wan, one of the crucial questions should be on product policy: who should have the final decision on whether it continues to punch out subcontracted cutlery and pen tops, as well as bartering self-built lathes, and continuing the production of agricultural machinery?

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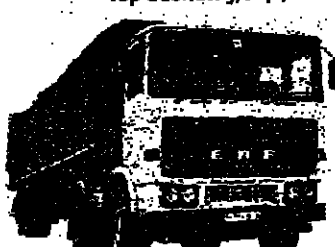
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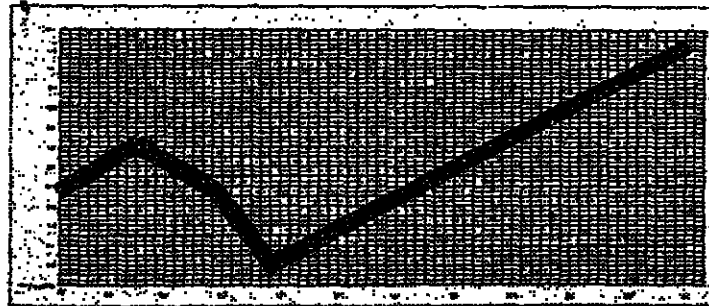
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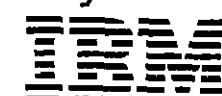
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THE ARTS

Cinema

Return of the silly season

by NIGEL ANDREWS

Hurricane (AA)
Classic Haymarket
Long Weekend (AA)
Odeons Kensington and
Swiss Cottage, Classic Chelsea
Friday the 13th (X)
Warner, ABC Shaftesbury
Avenue Studios, Scala
Skip Tracer (AA)
Paris Pullman

Raging winds and feral floods cut down the population of a remote island. A horrible thing happens to a husband and wife camping on an Australian beach near an abattoir... even more horrible things happen to a bunch of youngsters care-taking in a pre-season American camp-site... a Canadian debt-collector prowling through a client house opens a cupboard and out plops a slaughtered child... another lies behind the shower curtain... a girl gets a hatchet in the head... Trevor Howard is drowning a dead dugong slithers furiously up a beach, playing Grandmother's Footsteps with a young Australian couple.

Welcome to Midsummer Madness week. With the silly season spiralling into almost total dementia, it's time to be abroad or else to gird up your perverse, wonderment, and see just what happens to our favourite movies when the heat marvellously and deliciously turns their heads.

There's a majesty of sorts about naked nonsense. When the cinema comes out in the high-summer, all-together, without a shred of intellectual pretension, you can see what an endearing dynamo of daft energy it is even—or sometimes especially—at its worst. No artistic super-gen rules the troubling id of *Hurricane*, *Friday the 13th* and *Long Weekend*, and those seeking a heady blast of bargain-price Romantic Agony need trouble to look no further.

Be prepared only for the fact that the good lies down with the bad and the ugly, and strange, restless, dicking bed-fellows they make. *Hurricane*, for instance, has a plot of marvellous exotism culled from John Ford's 1937 movie of the same title. In 1920s Samoa an American governor's daughter (Mia Farrow) falls in love with a handsome native (Dustin Diamond) while the storm-clouds gather, both figurative and literal. Figurative in the form of her father (Jason Robards), a censorious grey-beard scowling at the miscegenation. Literal in the approaching hurricane that finally levels the island, leaving only the lovers alive in a new, mystic, gale-cleaned Eden.



Scene from the adventure film Hurricane

Grand plot, but in this Dino di Laurentis remake gag-a-treatment. Whoever thought to engage Jan Troell, for example, Swedish master of spacious realism—viz *The Emigrants*—to direct the film? Troell and his fellow-Swede, cinematographer Sven Nykvist, swathe the proceedings in a billous yellow mist and cut a dourly Nordic, humourless path through the South Seas' *amour fou*. The pulse briefly quickens in the hurricane climax, with the Pacific pounding across the screen uprooting trees and churches, but even here the model-work is too conspicuous, the cutting too haphazard.

The actors, meanwhile, go down for the third time well before the literal flood-tides rise—from Mia Farrow's fuming wife and Jason Robards's grimly doll-governor to cameo creak-throughs from Max Von Sydow and Trevor Howard as doctor and priest. What remains are brief shafts of sunlight from the wonderfully far-fetched plot

and piquant reveries about what Roman Polanski hired to direct the film before his legal troubles intervened—might have made of the story's strange, steamy, sinewy hyperboles.

Long Weekend, from Australia, is an even odder mish-mash: a "haunted beach" film

St. James, Broadway

Barnum by B. A. YOUNG

Phineas Taylor Barnum used the word "humbug" in an affectionate way to describe his methods of entertaining the public. Joe Layton's production of *Barnum* at the St. James's Theatre is that kind of humbug. There's a perfectly straight-forward book by Mark Bramble describing Barnum's ascent on the principle that there's a sucker born every minute; the affectionate disputes with his wife, who would rather be a straightforward businesswoman; the ultimate triumphant partnership with Bailey.

Joe Layton has turned this into an evening of pure joy by coating it with boundless riches of colour, fun and especially skill. There are singable songs composed by Cy Coleman to lyrics by Michael Stewart that sometimes show a verbal felicity to rival that of W. S. Gilbert. There is a company, every one of whom is a specialist, able to juggle three spinning batons, at once, do tricks with bricks, or play the violin on a high-wire. The house is decorated circus-style all over; there is an up, right piano at each end of the dress circle and a big band upstage. Best of all, there is our own Jim Dale, whose performance won him a well-deserved Tony.

Jim Dale can do anything. At one point he goes down on one knee while singing a song as he crosses a tightrope without a pole. (He has a wire in his dressing-room to practise on.) He sings splendidly, every note true, every word clear in the patter that comes out pretty fast. He acts well, though he hasn't much acting to do. He can keep up with his circus-trained colleagues in juggling and conjuring. Someone behind me shouted "Bravo!" as soon as he came on the stage, even before he had hopped up into a box from a trampoline. At the end he had a standing ovation.

Glenn Close has the unenviable task of playing his wife

in which the maritally bickering hero and heroine—she has just had a near-fatal abortion and blames it all on him—set up camp amid sequestered sand-dunes for a summer weekend. (Or would it be winter in Australia?) No one is around for miles, although there's a sinister van parked way off down the strand. Things start to go bump not just in the night but also in the day, offering a 24-hour supernatural service. A harpoon-gun goes off by itself. A possum attacks. A frozen chicken grows mould. Distant cries ululate. A deceased dugong—black slithery sea-creature—lies balefully on the beach and seems at each sighting to have crept nearer.

Cold, you'll agree. But odder still is the movie's stoical refusal to offer any rationale, however skimpy, for all these paranormal shenanigans. No past atrocities at the same compass-point are invoked, no ancestral curse on either of the protagonists. The story unspools in a rhymeless void where everything is possible and nothing is painful. In attempted compensation, director Colin Eggleston and writer Everett de Roche brush-up the incidentals for all they are worth and keep teasing us with such plays as craning the camera up sinistrally from the grass, suggesting who-knows-what unseen presences.

But a gigantic tease is all that the film finally is, and if you want straight, over-the-counter, cause-and-effect blood and thunder, then roll up for Friday the 13th. My own camping days, back in the Boy Scouts, were mostly confined to failing to tie clove-hitches and burning bits of salted pastry over a fire. But it's evident from this film that the agenda can be far more vigorous and exciting. The young counsellors-cum-care-takers at Camp Crystal Lake discover this during their pre-season spring-cleaning and get-together.

A frightful maniac is loose among the log cabins, portrayed

by a wobbly, heavy-breathing camera and wielding an assortment of sharp weapons including cleavers, knives and axes. Every ten minutes the film goes "kthunk!" as another young victim bites the dust, skewered through the breast with a harpoon or bisected in the face with a machete, or perhaps simply nailed to a door. The story galumphs along on high-octane crudity and minimal characterisation, while the audience keeps screwing itself up for the next bloodletting.

The best film of the week, though, is *Skip Tracer*. Down the mean streets of Vancouver walks a debt collector, seeking whom he may devour. John Collins (David Petersen) works for a dubious loan company which uses any form of moral and emotional intimidation—up to and including encouraging suicide—to get its clients to cough up overdue debts. J.C., don't the initial ring a bell, or clash a symbol?—is an ascetic fisher of men who always nets his man and who is in the running for the fourth consecutive time, for the firm's coveted "Man of the Year" award.

Starting off as a cynically seductive tour through the excesses of competitive capitalism, the film soon broadens into a bracing morality tale delineating the salutary crack-up of the (anti-)hero's robotic facade as the job's unrelenting nastiness slowly pierces his perceptions. A client's suicide, preceded by the same client's bashing to death of his wife and children, shines the final Damascene light into the collector's corroded soul.

It's a neatly, perhaps patly, humanist conclusion. But at least the film works towards it unlike the bludgeoning evolution of the week's other melodramas—and at least Canadian writer-director Dale Zelen has done under the opidion, well-camouflaged skin of his central character. It's also shot in clean-lined, unfussy, purposive style. See and enjoy.

Vienna Festival

Von Einem, Krenek, Hartmann

Vienna this summer is a place of anniversary celebration. The Austrian state enjoys in 1980 its 25th year of independent rule: the Empress Maria Theresa died 300 years ago; and the composer Ernst Krenek, Viennese by birth though long an American resident, is 80 this August. The first has affected the festival tangentially, in manifestations of posters, leaflets, and bulletins all over the city rather than by any special magnificent additions to the musical or dramatic schedule; the second is the cause of a magnificently arrayed, endlessly fascinating exhibition, *Maria Theresa und ihre Zeit*, at Schönbrunn (it remains there until September); and the most significant of the sparse Krenek festivities has been a new production at the Theater an der Wien of the once-notorious success of the 20s, *Jonny spielt auf*.

Jonny, though easily the most substantial of the two operatic offerings in this theatre, has been overshadowed by the world premiere of *Jesu Hochtzeit* (*The Marriage of Jesus*), a *Mysterienoper* in two acts by Gottfried von Einem. The composer of *Danton's Death*, *The Trial*, and *The Visit of the Old Lady* has turned his attention to a religious subject—and has come up with an opera that, in terms of controversy and the attendant publicity, is his most notable achievement yet, at least in his native land. In the libretto of Von Einem's wife, Lotte Ingrisch, the characters have been depicted in modern

idioms (Mary and Joseph speak not hoch-Deutsch but in a kind of Tipoteitan patois); in particular, foreknowledge that Death was to be characterised in female guise and garb, as a temptress with whom Jesus undergoes a central marriage ceremony, had the effect of outraging Austrian Catholic orthodoxy. According to report, police were present at the first performance, last month, to quell any planned demonstration inside the theatre itself; and though at the fourth performance the atmosphere was entirely calm, the librettist's strongly-worded apology in the programme was sufficient to indicate to the outsider the nature and the extent of the storm.

Before the performance the fuss seemed difficult to take seriously; after, it became simply laughable. *Jesu Hochtzeit* is an entertaining so slight, so innocuous, and so devoid of controversial intention, alike in its dramaturgy and in its music, as to make *Godspell* seem like one of Bunel's wilder anticlerical fantasies. The opening sets a tone unswervingly sustained: Mary Magdalene (guitar in hand, blue jeans tastefully patched) poses, from the centre aisle of the stalls, the question, "Dere God exist?", but the "mildly blasphemous" minor of Prologue soon assures us that its discussion is unlikely to be asserted with any force or lack of decorum.

The trouble with the piece is the speed with which it reveals the spuriousness of its impulses and its motivations. *Jesu Hochtzeit* fills no need (for all that a television future, as an alternative to *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, can be cheerfully predicted), and as a recrudescence of the old story in modern guise it is, centrally and simply, uninteresting. The production, by Giancarlo del Monaco, son of the famous Italian tenor, was untroubling, if hardly arresting. David Shallon conducted the Vienna Symphony; one of the pleasures of an evening otherwise felt to be mildly (the word, in this context, becomes contagious) wasted was the chance afforded of meeting Karan Armstrong (a sultry, striking soprano Death), Per-Arne Wahlgren (very tall and Scandinavically handsome as Jesus, with a pleasant, soft-grained baritone) and Anne Gjevang (a firm mezzo for Mary



Allen Evans and Nelly Alakova in Jonny spielt auf

Magdalene); one of its minor sadnesses was the sere, shabby tone Eberhard Wächter produced for Joseph.

Production and musical performance, rather than the work itself, were the undoing of the Krenek revival. I have long wanted to encounter in the theatre a piece whose dramatic concepts and whose musical ideas (at least as gleaned from the vocal score) seem to retain their originality and freshness. (*Jonny*, first given in Leipzig in 1927, had spread its fame across Europe and even as far as the New York Met, by the end of the decade; the sympathetic presence of a black American musician in the story and the liberal outbursts of popular American music in the score helped to ensure Nazi disapproval thereafter; later, Krenek's position as a greatly respected but not much played composer of unabated prolificness seemed to guarantee its further disappearance.)

After this performance—a co-production of the Graz Opera House, Styrian Spring and Vienna Festivals, conducted by the veteran Ernst Märzendorfer—I hardly feel that my acquaintance with the opera has been significantly improved. The production took small but irritating liberties with the stage directions; so did the ambitious Odeon-type scenery, whose impracticality wrought havoc with scene changes and inserted long, long pauses into undesirable places. Whether in its neo-Schubertian lyricism, Paris-infused chic, or jazz-infected vitality—for all of which Krenek was either admired or reviled—the music on this occasion sounded soggy, limply un-rhythmic, terribly unclear in its sonorities; and parts of the cast

were so weak that one may have been tempted to overrate the black American baritone (Jonny) for his lithe presence or the East German tenor Rainer Goldbaum (Max) for his verbal attentiveness and distinct, unfettered vocal style.

This was a sore disappointment. In my four days in Vienna there were others. A concert in the large hall of the Musikverein by Kubelik and his Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra offered in its first half the *Song Scène* (1963; unfinished) on a text from Giraudoux's *Sodom and Gomorrah* by the Munich composer Karl Amadeus Hartmann (1905-1963). Hartmann's stand against the Nazis was so admirable, and his post-war re-investigation of new music in his native city so fruitful, that I always want intensely to like his music whenever I hear it. The desire seldom survives the actual experience; it did not this grey, heavy, hardly remitted piece of Puritan declamation for a hard-worked baritone. (Yet Roland Herman found in it opportunities for impressive dramatic singing—why don't we hear this fine performer in London more often?) The Vienna State Opera keeps continually active during the festival, though its repertory is not connected therewith. Or its standards specially improved therefor, if the performance—or, to be truthful, the two acts—of *Tannhäuser* that I saw and heard is anything to go by. Wild wobbling by Gwyneth Jones and the sea-genarian Hans Beirer, coarse conducting of a slapdash orchestra by Berislav Klobucar, a spectacular production gone utterly to seed: it seemed to represent a great house at its very worst.

MAX LOPPERT

Covent Garden programme

The Royal Opera, Covent Garden, announced its programme for the 1980-81 season yesterday against growing worries about its financial situation. Its grant from the Arts Council for the year will be £7,805,000, a rise of only 11.5 per cent, while costs have increased by 20 per cent or more.

As a result extra ballet programmes have been introduced to replace more expensive opera performances and seat prices will be raised by an average 30 per cent.

Four new productions are planned—*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, to celebrate the cen-

tenary of Offenbach's death; the three-act version of *Lulu*, a British premiere; *Macbeth*; and *Don Giovanni*. The Offenbach, which opens in December, will be the first opera produced by John Schlesinger.

Berg's *Lulu* arrives in January for its Covent Garden premiere. The conductor is Sir Colin Davis, the producer Götz Friedrich, and Karan Armstrong, making her debut at the Garden, is *Lulu*. Verdi's *Macbeth* is conducted by Muti.

Don Giovanni in July, 1981, marks the start of a Mozart Festival.

ANTHONY THORNCROFT

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Stratford, Ontario

Virginia

The production of Edna O'Brien's *Virginia* at the Avon Stage, Stratford, Ontario, with Maggie Smith in the long part of Virginia Woolf, is an event to go into theatrical history. The play is built from a delicate mosaic of Virginia Woolf's own writings and other sources touching on her life, framed in Miss O'Brien's own words and marshalled into an original work of art. It tells of Virginia Stephen's progress from her childhood, through the high days of Bloomsbury, to her marriage to Leonard Woolf, her madness, her romantic association with Vita Sackville-West and her suicide when she feared a renewed onset of madness. It is done with immense delicacy and skill, and played by Maggie Smith in one of the

most sensitive performances I have seen her do. Virtually, it is a one-woman play though Leonard and Vita are seen and heard to flesh out Virginia's thoughts. But Miss Smith, who does not leave the stage during the whole hour and a half's playing, is constantly at the focus of affairs.

Wearing a dull green dress and brown cardigan, she conjures into existence the people of her life, moving with infinite subtlety from recollection to anecdote and impersonation. The dreadful days of lunacy are as terrible as if one saw them happening in one's own life. They are followed by a kind of fragile aristocracy as Vita, played with a delicate aristocracy by Patricia Connolly—smart and

singing by Terri White as the 160-year-old, Joice Keth and a song-and-dance number by Leonard John Crofoot in the person of General Tom Thumb that seems to me to mark him out for stardom.

Symbolic of this life, Nicholas Pennell hovers maternally about her as Leonard, civil servant and publisher, a dark-suited computer charged with an overwhelming responsibility. The direction by Robin Phillips, on a beautiful set, by Philip Silver, where images of Virginia's life appear half-realised, is faithful, up to the moment of the last peremptory blackout as Virginia repeats again a passage heard earlier, and now more sinister, about death under water.

B. A. YOUNG

BALANCE SHEET 1979

On 30th April 1980 the Board of Banco di Sicilia, at their Annual General Meeting, approved the accounts for the 1979 financial year which showed a net profit of Lit. 3,473 million after amortizations of Lit. 19,740 million and provisions of Lit. 95,825 million.

The Chairman, Professor Giannino Parravicini, having fully examined the present situation and future economic prospects, reviewed the results of Banking Section activity and of the Special Sections for industrial, farming, fishing, mining, mortgage and public sector lending. Summarised, these results show an increase of Lit. 1,143 billion in funds invested, which totalled Lit. 9,050 billion, and an increase of Lit. 1,264 billion in loans and bonds, which together totalled Lit. 9,541 billion.

From the Balance Sheet as at 31st December 1979	
Funds managed	Lire 9,209 billion
Lending by the banking section	" 3,762 "
Lending by the special sections	" 2,175 "
Investments in bonds and shares	" 2,604 "
Engagements & contingent liabilities	" 1,146 "



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Friday June 13 1980

Wrong way to cut spending

THE TREASURY's threat to halt all new construction by local authorities in order to impose some badly needed discipline on local government spending is a demonstration of the Government's weakness rather than its strength of purpose. The present Treasury Ministers have in the past been among the most vocal critics of Labour's preference for cutting capital, rather than current, spending whenever public spending has to be limited.

They are therefore well aware that the real problem that needs to be attacked is the excessive level of current spending by local authorities, which on present trends is running £784m, or 5.6 per cent above target. In particular, local authorities have not made remotely enough effort to reduce manpower and keep their wage bills, which account for 70 per cent of current spending, within the Government's cash limits.

Traditions

However, the Government has no powers to influence current spending or manpower directly, whereas all capital spending requires Treasury approval. While a capital spending moratorium would do nothing about the longstanding traditions in many local authorities to look out for the interests of their own employees first and foremost, it would at least enable the Government to limit total local authority spending. The Government would admit that a moratorium would simply visit the sins of local politicians on the construction industry and would result in considerable waste and misallocation of resources.

Nevertheless the Treasury view appears to be that the Government's macroeconomic strategy, based upon steady reductions in public spending and borrowing, must for the moment, take precedence over all other objectives. While the Government's evident determination to stick to its plans is in principle welcome, it does not justify crude measures which could do considerable economic harm, in order merely to satisfy the letter, rather than the spirit, of the Government's promises.

The aims of reducing public spending are to release resources for use in the private sector, to cut public borrowing and hence the pressure on monetary growth and interest rates and to reduce the burden of

taxes. An attack on the construction industry, which is already operating at less than half its capacity, would certainly not serve the first of these purposes. The most immediate aim, control of the public sector borrowing requirement, could be achieved without a construction moratorium, by taking further steps to constrain local authorities' borrowing. Although the Government's ability to regulate borrowing is limited, a good deal could be achieved by using the powers that exist with a degree of ruthlessness.

An even more powerful fiscal weapon exists for the Government in the Order which it issues in November of each year to supplement the Rate Support Grant, which provides 61 per cent of local authorities' revenues. The Government could, in extreme, threaten to provide the local authorities with less than it has promised, thus reducing the Central Government Borrowing Requirement. This would be a crude weapon. Like a capital spending moratorium, it would punish responsible local authorities as well as those which have been guilty of gross overspending, but it would at least ensure that the pressure to adjust to the Government's plans fell on current spending and manpower, instead of being concentrated solely on investment.

The main objection to a cut in the Rate Support Grant is that this would force many local authorities to increase their rates even beyond their present levels in order to make up the lost revenues. Indeed, authorities that were utterly determined to maintain their overexpending and manpower would be able to do so, by imposing massively increased levies on their ratepayers.

Tax reductions

The Government is understandably reluctant to do anything that would encourage further rate increases and exacerbate inflation. Furthermore, a response to overspending which could be circumvented through rate increases would fall down on the Government's third objective in cutting public spending, the reduction of local rate levels is ultimately the responsibility of local electors, not of central government. If certain local politicians are so irresponsible as to ignore the Government's pleas for stringency, they would face some very angry voters at the next local elections.

Italy can pause for breath

SIGNOR Francesco Cossiga, the Italian Prime Minister, has reason to feel fairly happy with himself as he hosts the EEC summit in Venice. Italy's skilful chairmanship of the Community has played an important part in resolving the long and bitter argument over Britain's budgetary contribution and he will doubtless have been personally thanked by Mrs. Thatcher. At home, the threat of his impeachment over allegations that he tipped off a colleague about his son's alleged involvement in terrorism appear to be receding. Most importantly, however, this week has seen his coalition Government's mandate convincingly reaffirmed in regional and local elections.

Hard core

The election result, though comforting to Signor Cossiga's Christian Democrats, can hardly be described as an outright victory. The turnout was low, by Italian standards, and the Communist share of the vote only dropped marginally compared with last year's general election, confirming the existence of a fairly hard core of Communist support comprising almost one-third of the electorate. The vote by no means represents the comprehensive condemnation of left-wing administrations at local level that the Christian Democrats had sought.

Equally, however, the elections failed to produce the vote of no confidence in the Cossiga Government at national level for which the Communists had campaigned. All three Government parties did well, with the Christian Democrats advancing to just under 37 per cent of the vote, compared with just over 35 per cent in the last local poll in 1975. The junior partner, the Republican Party, held its own despite fears of a reverse, and the Socialists, with almost 13 per cent, did better than in any nationwide election since 1963.

Paradoxically, however, his Socialist partners' success could actually create problems for Signor Cossiga in the medium term. The high Socialist vote was undoubtedly helped by the withdrawal from the elec-

tions of the small left-wing Radical Party. But it is likely further to encourage the Socialist Party's demands for a greater role in Government. The ambition of its leader, Signor Bettino Craxi, to become the first Socialist Prime Minister since the war has already shown itself to be a disturbing factor in the Italian political equation.

For the moment, however, Signor Cossiga looks firmly in the saddle. That being so, he now has little excuse for evading a serious assault on the country's mounting economic problems.

One of the problems is that Italy, with the highest growth forecast in the EEC for this year, has got out of step with its partners. Imports are being sucked in at a time when external markets are collapsing and inflation is undermining the competitiveness of Italian goods. With the lira locked into the European Monetary System, rising costs are not finding an outlet through a decline in the exchange rate. A readjustment of parties inside the EMS is, of course, possible, but the Government is insisting that it will not contemplate a lira devaluation.

The Liberal Democratic Party, a conservative body which dominates the politics of Japan, is divided into factions each with its own leader. Members of each faction pledge support to their leader in return for his backing, especially financial support at election time. Factions have no particular regional bases, nor are they usually of an especial ideological colour. Main leaders with the strength they commanded in the last parliament are shown alongside.



Kakuei Tanaka: faction of 49



Takeo Miki: faction of 23



Yasuhiro Nakasone: faction of 38



Takeo Fukuda: faction of 47



The late Masayoshi Ohira: faction of 43

Japan: divided they rule

AT THE height of a prolonged and bitter power struggle within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the late Prime Minister, Mr. Masayoshi Ohira, refused to quit, declaring to his LDP opponents, "asking me to resign is like asking me to die." That was nine months ago. His sudden death on Thursday came precisely as opinion was growing that his resignation might be inevitable for health reasons.

Mr. Ohira's departure from the political scene does not, however, change the fact that the LDP is at present engaged in a dual election campaign which could spell the end of 25 years of LDP rule. Even if it manages to retain its slim majorities in the lower and upper houses of the Diet (and even if Mr. Ohira were still alive), the badly divided party is in for perhaps the most tumultuous post-election battle for leadership since its founding as a conservative coalition.

The recent months of factional infighting in the LDP have even given rise to doubts about its prospects for survival as a party. Since last October, when it did badly in a general election, it has split into two groups of factions. The so-called "anti-mainstream" factions which called for Mr. Ohira's resignation because of his poor showing in the post-war Japanese Prime Ministers. A simple man with a modest academic record and a talent for making and keeping friends, Mr. Ohira exemplified many of the virtues that have contributed to Japan's recent prosperity.

He was known for caution and humanity and for a marked ability (even by Japanese standards) to settle difficult problems through the patient forming of a consensus.

Mr. Ohira's life history, like that of many of his predecessors, was that of a country-boy who made good. Born into a farming family in south-western Japan in 1910, Mr. Ohira was (by his own account) no more than an average performer at school. He seems to have had a streak of toughness, however, which took him to a local commercial college after his father's early death (when Mr. Ohira was 15) and subsequently to a good (but not outstanding) university career in Tokyo.

Once in Tokyo, Mr. Ohira's talent for making friends helped him to progress further. An acquaintance from his home

election for half the members of the Diet's Upper House was also due to be held in late June. A rapid decision was taken to dissolve the Diet and hold both the Upper and Lower House elections on Sunday June 22 which, awkwardly, is also the date of the world economic summit in Venice.

The bumbling way in which the LDP allowed the election to come about does not mean, as the opposition hopes, that it is necessarily in a worse position than the four main left of centre parties. The LDP has stronger financial resources, and a better organisation than perhaps any other party except the Japan Communist Party (JCP). At the risk of burying the dead too quickly, some LDP optimists are arguing that Mr. Ohira's heart attack might even have the effect of generating a mild sympathy among floating voters.

They further argue that the hospitalisation of Mr. Ohira, one day after the election campaign officially got under way, could paradoxically have worked for the LDP. His enforced silence could have been a boon during an election campaign in which there were no real issues to debate. It is remembered, in this context, that Mr. Ohira almost lost the election in October, 1979, by speaking on unpopular issues such as the need for a major tax increase.

Before Mr. Ohira died, it was a commonly held view among political analysts that the LDP would almost certainly keep its majority in the Upper House. Under the alternating election of members scheme, it needs to elect only 60 candidates out of the 126 up for election, most of which are running from "safe" LDP constituencies. The LDP carries 65 seats over from the

last election, three years ago, for the 252 member body. In the Lower House, predictions for the LDP's score run from a minimum of 240 seats to 260 seats (256 represents a majority). If the lower of these figures turns out to be right, the LDP may have to resort to co-operation with middle of the road opposition parties. This could mean a small LDP offshoot, the New Liberal Club, or the anti-communist Democratic Socialist Party, which is anxious to make the defence forces strong.

Analysts say that even if the LDP winds up with only the "worst case" number of seats in their predictions, the opposition parties are very unlikely to be able to form a coalition in the Lower House. The largest opposition group, the Japan Socialist Party, can be expected to win at best 100-120 seats, or less than half of what

the LDP can muster if it does badly. For reasons which combine ideological differences and personal prejudices, the JSP cannot hope to form a coalition with either the Japan Communist Party or the smaller parties to its right.

Looking beyond the election (and assuming the LDP does not do too badly), the ruling party still faces the difficult task of selecting a new party leader to head the next cabinet. Under party procedures, the members of the Upper and Lower Houses of the Diet will meet to select a "temporary" leader for the party, immediately after the election. Next December, when Mr. Ohira's term would have ended, the LDP will choose a "permanent" leader for a two-year term.

It is considered likely that the former Prime Minister, Mr. Takeo Fukuda, a strong opponent of Mr. Ohira on one

or another of the leadership will stand in for a temporary basis. The acting Prime Minister, Mr. Masayoshi Ohira, could also conceivably fill the bill.

The real battle may actually be won or lost in the days after the election. If Mr. Fukuda is named, he may want to try to stay on in December. It is more likely, however, that one of three other younger LDP leaders could step up in the queue for leadership. They include the former Defence Agency Director General Yasuhiro Nakasone, Mr. Toshio Komoto, a former Minister of International Trade and Industry, and Mr. Kiichi Miyazawa, a former Foreign Minister, who appears first in line to take over the reins of the now leaderless Ohira faction.

Richard C. Hanson
Tokyo Correspondent

Mr. Ohira's winning talent

Mr. MASAYOSHI OHIRA, who died early on Thursday morning after a short illness, was probably the most unassuming personality among the long list of post-war Japanese Prime Ministers. A simple man with a modest academic record and a talent for making and keeping friends, Mr. Ohira exemplified many of the virtues that have contributed to Japan's recent prosperity.

He was known for caution and humanity and for a marked ability (even by Japanese standards) to settle difficult problems through the patient forming of a consensus.

Mr. Ohira's life history, like that of many of his predecessors, was that of a country-boy who made good. Born into a farming family in south-western Japan in 1910, Mr. Ohira was (by his own account) no more than an average performer at school. He seems to have had a streak of toughness, however, which took him to a local commercial college after his father's early death (when Mr. Ohira was 15) and subsequently to a good (but not outstanding) university career in Tokyo.

Once in Tokyo, Mr. Ohira's talent for making friends helped him to progress further. An acquaintance from his home

prefecture who had secured a top job in the Ministry of Finance helped him to enter the Ministry where he became a specialist in taxation and a trusted aide of Mr. Hayato Ikeda, a director of the Ministry's tax bureau who harboured political ambitions.

When Mr. Ikeda was elected to the Diet after the war and appointed instantly to the post of Finance Minister he selected Mr. Ohira as one of his two private secretaries. (The other was Mr. Kiichi Miyazawa—a

Dealing with so many varying issues gave Mr. Ohira a unique experience as a political all-rounder. But his chief talent was that of building alliances with fellow politicians within the shifting system of factions making up the ruling LDP.

Mr. Ohira's premiership began in 1978 when he defeated a sitting prime minister, Mr. Takeo Fukuda, in a party leadership election.

Mr. Ohira's premiership started out, in November 1978, under favourable auspices, both

political and economic. All his major rivals had held the prime ministership before him with the result that he appeared to have no obvious successor. From late 1978 onwards, the Japanese economy began an increasingly vigorous recovery. These and other factors created an impression of ascendancy in the Mr. Ohira cabinet and served to increase public support for the LDP—to the point where Mr. Ohira was induced to dissolve the Diet and call an early election in

Mr. Ohira's election miscalculation provided his enemies in the party with an excuse to mount an attack on his leadership. At the end of 1979 almost half the parliamentary membership of the LDP refused to support him in a ballot for the premiership. Six weeks ago, the opposition Japan Socialist Party introduced a motion of no-confidence against the Ohira Government, and anti-Ohira factions of the LDP boycotted the vote on the motion. The result was defeat for the Government and a dissolution of the Diet. The resulting tensions and the strains involved in preparing for a second general election may have dealt a fatal blow to Mr. Ohira's health.

Mr. Ohira was a non-dogmatic Christian (another unique characteristic among post-war Japanese politicians); a keen golfer and an insatiable reader of books on history and current affairs. Summing up his own success in politics, he once told an audience of foreign journalists that his greatest political asset was his smile. The smile that followed this remark convinced most of his audience that he was right.

Charles Smith
Far East Editor

Mr. Ohira's chief talent was that of building alliances in the shifting system of factions making up the LDP.

MEN AND MATTERS

One more for Threadneedle St.

The long-term effects of monetarism, taken neat and in large doses, are largely unknown, although in the short-term it has produced headaches and severe disorientation among those not used to it.

How apt, then, that in a swish bar hard by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, the intellectual citadel of American monetarism, the barman should have concocted a particularly ferocious cocktail which produces a similar effect.

Based on white rum and dubbed Federal Reserve, it is popular during the happy hour among high priests from the Fed who have been known to discuss such unlikely subjects as the St. Louis Cardinals (a baseball team, I believe) under its influence.

Is there a lesson here for the keeper of the Bank of England's bar at New Change? He could brew his own beer, doubtless bland and with no inflationary froth. But I am thinking of something with a little more bite.

No prizes, but your suggestions for a suitable recipe and name will be welcomed. Only one rule: the cocktail must be drinkable. Ingredients such as vinegar, all arsenicals and Bank of England coffee are thus banned.

Lord-a-leaking

rattled were the Law Lords themselves. The unflappable Lord Diplock, who said he heard the prediction on the 7 am news, observed mildly that the BBC seemed to have "remarkable prescience".

Sorry, Lord Diplock. Apologies too, to the lawyer heard blustering: "Mole... phooey." My colleague who covers law and the courts has what sounds like a better theory. He claims to be at the end of one of the tendrils of a grapevine which spreads from the judicial bench, through the Inns of Court to a certain bookery in High Holborn, where, he implies, the secrets of the law are an open book over a bottle of claret.

Fighting back

Who am I to judge whether it is a change for the good, but I hear that Japanese company meetings may soon be more peaceable and longer-lasting than at present. Few last more than half an hour and many finish in five minutes—not for lack of interest among shareholders, but mainly because of the activities of a breed of pit-striped thugs who have had the corporate world hamstringing for some years past.

These are the *sokenyo*—literally "stockholders' meeting manipulators"—who have progressively infiltrated the financial world. They offer their services to companies for retainers ranging up to hundreds of pounds a month as strong-arm men to keep dissident shareholders quiet at meetings.

And they have found to date that few boards have rejected their offers, principally because of the threat that should they not be taken on the payroll they will volunteer company secrets to shareholders or details of the extramarital activities of senior executives. Their access to confidential information comes via strong connections with underworld specialists in vice and corruption.

Police say there are more than 5,000 *sokenyo* in Japan, and estimate that almost 3,000

companies listed on the country's three main stock exchanges paid out something like £90m in retainers last year. Now, however, more than 1,000 companies have decided they will not submit to blackmail. They have formed an organisation whose resolve to resist will be tested at this month's coming round of bi-annuals.

In the past, fearful of the blackmailers' threats, they have borne the expense and harassment, but the pioneers have now begun to ask the police for protection. The publicity given to their co-operation has begun to prove almost as embarrassing as the threats, and the police are eagerly awaiting their chance to beat last year's score of 243 *sokenyo* arrests which included that of master manipulator Kaoru Ogawa, who was reputed to "earn" more than £500,000 a year.

Jay's omission

The recently-published third volume of a ponderous work telling the story of Courtaulds from 1940 to 1965, and providing many insights into the top-level battles of that period, falls tantalisingly short of an explosive stand-off in 1970 recounted in scabrous detail in Douglas Jay's autobiography, *Change and Fortune*.

Appointed a non-executive director of Courtaulds in 1967, Jay was nudged out in 1970 after a fracas over a notion from Frank Keston (later Lord Keston). The then chairman and the younger eagles on his board were keen to take over "a major British pulp-producing and publishing combine," writes Jay.

Despite a lengthy "monologue à deux," he adds, he insisted that since Courtaulds had no experience in the area, he could not support the plan. His doubts were shared by fellow director David Eccles, who is reported to have likened the proposed liaison to "marrying a prostitute."

However candid his recollections, I fear Jay fails to lift

the veil completely and identify the object of Keston's attentions. We shall probably have to wait for volume four of the Courtaulds saga for the omission to be made good with the revelation that the intended was the IPC Daily Mirror Group. Oops.

And the scent?

Eight years in the equable climate of New Zealand have done great things for the temperament of renowned rose breeder Sam McGredy since he emigrated from the "murder triangle" of Northern Ireland. He left behind a profitable business employing 134 people, and a life in which everything was done at the double. Now, at walking pace, he runs a one-man operation in Auckland's Hauraki Gulf with ample time for his flower breeding, boating and fishing in the Pacific.

He has not, however, lost any of the hard commercial sense which earned him a fortune and a reputation among the botanical purists as a commercial hack (his words).

Some of his roses are christened for love, but others purely for money. Consider the Marie Elizabeth, named after a can of sardines, and the Benson and Hedges. At present he is touting around for another nominee prepared to pay £15,000 to christen a new cultivar whose colour is described as that of tomato ketchup—a hint if ever I heard one.

Monkey business

For francophones only. What must be the slip to out-Freud the Freudians appears in a recent French-language edition of the European Community's Official Journal. A paragraph on the "dove" named who last year examined the right and wrong-doings of the Brussels bureaucrats, describes them as "le trois singes."

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Can Mr. Healey reform the party?

MR. DENIS HEALEY is quite likely to become leader of the Labour Party before the end of the year. Such a development is based on two assumptions. The first is that the method of election is not changed at the Party Conference in October and that the leader continues to be chosen by the Parliamentary Party. The second is that Mr. James Callaghan will resign when the Conference is over the year.

It is impossible to say more about the first assumption at present, except that it is how the betting is going, and not only on the right of the party. As for Mr. Callaghan's position, the best case for his staying is to allow more time for a natural successor to emerge, and perhaps to reach an understanding with the unions over how they would co-operate with a future Labour Government. The bulk of the Parliamentary Party, however, seems to have concluded that the natural successor is Mr. Healey, and that it would be better to let him get on with the job.

If Mr. Callaghan goes in the autumn, he can do so gracefully. If he stays, he runs the risk of the party becoming restless about his position.

The ease with which Mr. Healey is elected depends partly on a self-denying ordinance: among other potential candidates on the centre and the right. He is not thought to command all that many first preference votes; the figure of about 80 is being mentioned. Thus if Mr. Roy Hattersley, Mr. William Rodgers, Mr. Roy Mason and Mr. David Owen were to stand against him, his performance on the first ballot would be somewhat cramped. The word at the moment is that they may all stand down, but the temptation to run will be strong. If only to make a mark for the future. If one of them breaks ranks, the others will

almost certainly follow. Still, there is a widespread belief that Mr. Healey will win in the end.

The opposition on the Left is likely to come from Mr. Eric Heffer, who has already committed himself to standing. Mr. John Silkin, Mr. Peter Shore and, possibly, Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn. Mr. Benn's position is queried because he could decide not to run on the perfectly reasonable ground that he disapproves of the method of election. In any case, he would be unlikely to receive many votes from the Parliamentary Party.

Mr. Shore is in the curious position of being identified with the Left because of his views on British membership of the European Community, though in fact he is well on the right of the Party on most other issues. Both he and Mr. Silkin, a left-winger who might pick up some right wing anti-market votes, are regarded by Mr. Healey's supporters as being quite serious candidates, but beatable. The one real fear being expressed is that Mr. Silkin might do sufficiently well as runner-up for Mr. Healey to be lumbered with him as deputy leader.

So much for the assumptions and calculations, which could of course substantially change with time. Much less has been said, and is being said, about what Mr. Healey would do with victory.

There is a fashionable view among journalists, which Mr. Healey seeks to refute, that very little is known about where he stands and what he thinks. And it is certainly true that there is no great overture, no future of Socialism to his credit. Last year Mr. David Marquand, a former Labour MP now associated with Mr. Roy Jenkins and his idea of a realignment of the radical centre of British politics,

wrote an article for *Encounter* that was extremely critical of the Labour Party. Mr. Healey was asked to respond. "I am afraid I am too busy to comment on David Marquand's piece," he wrote to the editor. "In any case that kind of stale academicism among Labour intellectuals is one of our major problems."

Yet it is also true that when Mr. Healey does write, he does so with distinction. His contribution to the winter 1979-80 issue of *Foreign Affairs* entitled "Oil, money and recession" is a masterly summary of the problems of the market economies

which he seems to have problems: for example, sections of the Parliamentary Party which he has never bothered to cultivate, and parts of the Press. The common touch comes out in the dislike of theory and the readiness to use simple language. "Socialism," he said in the Sara Barker memorial lecture last year (one of the very few key Healey texts), "is a means of giving real help to real people."

The Godenberg programme contains one phrase that is the essence of pragmatism: "As much planning as necessary and as much freedom as possible." One suspects that that, too, would be Mr. Healey's approach. As he said in the Sara Barker lecture: "The fact is that we shall do best if we continue to operate a mixed economy in which the operation of market forces is controlled by the Government either through legal rules or through direct intervention. The only question is where the boundary should be set in particular cases between state intervention and the market." (That "only question" is still a very big one.)

The SPD, in its German way, broke with Marxism by formally voting to change the rules. Mr. Healey has probably had enough of the constitutional battles which go back to the days of Hugh Gaiskill and which have led only to trouble. He would prefer to coax and bully the Party around to living in the 1980s while leaving the constitution alone.

Yet there are still certain European lessons of which he is aware. The European socialist parties which have flourished are not those which have split. Compare the German Social Democrats, for example, to the



Mr. Healey: intelligent, pragmatic, internationalist.

Italians. Anyone who leaves a socialist party to set up, or to join, a new party to the right of it only makes it more difficult for the reformists who remain. The best approach to reform is reform from within.

The European lesson is also that it is better to adjust to circumstances than to behave as if nothing had changed. Some of the changes for the better have actually been brought about by socialist policies being put into practice. If in the process of embourgeoisification the people

come to want different things, it is the socialist party which should adjust. That is what happened in both Germany and Austria.

Of course, some of the Marxist or fundamentalist elements will remain: they do in the SPD. But at least you can contain them by the promise of winning elections, and of achievement.

The politician whom Mr. Healey most obviously admires is the West German Chancellor, Herr Helmut Schmidt. They are old friends with broadly similar

careers. Both were defence ministers and then finance ministers. Mr. Healey says that he owes any unpopularity he has experienced in the Labour Party to having held those posts. Clearly he would like to run the Party as Herr Schmidt runs the SPD, and indeed run Britain as Herr Schmidt runs West Germany.

Herr Schmidt, however, has at least one major advantage. He heads a coalition with the liberal Free Democrats. If his own left wing threatens to become strident, he can say that the liberals won't wear it. As a pragmatist, he can also say (or at least hope) that the electorate will not vote for an overall SPD majority. The Germans have a system of proportional representation, whereas Britain does not.

That brings us briefly to Mr. Roy Jenkins and his speech this week. It is entirely healthy that the existing system should be challenged. Yet Mr. Jenkins's chances of success depend not only on what happens to Mrs. Thatcher's economic experiment, but also on the Labour Party succession.

If Mr. Healey does become leader, the party could still be transformed from within. It could be intelligently and pragmatically led and, above all, internationalist. The odds against Labour adopting a *de facto* Bad Godesberg programme are pretty formidable. The party political broadcast on Wednesday evening, which called for what amounted to unilateral nuclear disarmament, was a striking example of how the Left has its hands on the machine, and must have again brought Mr. Rodgers, the Shadow Defence Secretary, to the brink of resignation. But at least Mr. Healey should be given the chance to fail. He might succeed.

Malcolm Rutherford

Letters to the Editor

Moratorium on building

From the Director General, The Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors

Sir, A moratorium on new work to be let by Local Authorities (June 12) would be a severe blow to the civil engineering industry. Some 90 per cent of our work is in the public sector and about half of that is local authority work.

Since 1973 the industry has suffered a succession of cuts in its workload, with the result that it is now operating at half its potential capacity. Moratoria on capital investment, leaving current spending untouched, in no way solve the basic problem. This would in fact be a return to the failed "stop-go" policies of earlier administrations; a short-term expedient leading to a longer-term loss of national and industrial efficiency.

The failure by successive Governments to invest in Britain was highlighted in the recent report, "The British Economic Base" by Mr. W. A. P. Manser, Economic Adviser to Baring Brothers. Between 1972 and 1978 public investment in the National Infrastructure declined by 19.5 per cent. The report also showed that between 1961 and 1978 employment in the health services, education and social services actually declined, yet at the same time hospital beds available fell by 14 per cent and full-time school attenders rose by only 26 per cent. These figures are surely a significant pointer to where the problem lies.

This Government must not fall into the same trap as previous administrations, which, when in opposition, they rightly castigated. The need of controlling current spending must be grasped; a moratorium such as that suggested in your article can only make the economic situation worse.

Derek Gaultier, Conder House, 6, Portugal Street, WC2.

NEB's stake in Ferranti

From Mr. R. J. Hardie and others

Sir, We were disturbed to read reports of the Prime Minister's reply to a question on the proposed disposal of the NEB (shareholding in Ferranti). To dismiss the fears of the employees with a statement that the Government and the NEB had assisted Ferranti during a very difficult period and no longer needed that assistance, misses the mark by a very wide margin indeed.

The necessary injection of public capital following the financial crisis of 1974, together with the unique blend of skills and expertise assembled within the workforce have returned the company to profitability, and it has regained the status of a lot of for auction.

It should be seen however, as more than that.

The transition has involved some pain and some conflict. There have been some redundancies in the North West group of factories, but in total jobs have been created, in no small measure due to an imaginative programme of diversification and innovation. All this is in stark contrast to the overall decline in engineering employment over the same period. Ferranti's presence in Scotland and the NW of England has helped mitigate the

desperate employment situation in hard hit areas of the UK.

But not all the company's activities are profitable. Some are marginal, speculative and above all innovative. They are exactly the sort of ventures necessary if we are to avert the deindustrialisation of Great Britain.

The NEB have a role as guardian of the public interest. If their shareholding were sold there could be no guarantee that the buyers—whether institutions with little experience or knowledge of the electronics industry, or present competitors—would not abandon projects in fields such as micro-electronics and computer aided design and manufacture, on perfectly legitimate commercial grounds, with dire consequences for the long term common good.

The sale of the NEB shareholding would be not only unnecessary but unwise. The contribution to a reduction of the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement would be derisory and the contribution made to the public purse in dividends, and in taxation of both the company and its employees would be put in hazard.

We would end by quoting the 1980 Progress report of the Electronics Components sector working party.

"Our work over the last four years, however, convinces us that the need is now greater than ever to seek common solutions to common problems. Co-operation is a vital spur to progress, but competitive forces alone are not enough. Government support, union involvement in planning for rapid technical change, co-operation between companies to achieve rationalisation, greater communication within the industry and with other industries—these are also vital to the success of our sector, and indeed to the success of the economy as a whole."

We hope that some attention may yet be paid to such constructive thinking that the presence that the NEB is not and should not be influenced by Government will be dropped, and the sale of the NEB shareholding abandoned.

R. J. Hardie, EC Member of AUEW-TASS, R. G. D. Dalgleish, Edinburgh District Council, A. Russell, Drawing Office Representatives, W. Colquhoun, 21, Cambridge Gardens, Edinburgh.

Company registration

From Mr. J. A. Cowdry

Sir, Whilst the procedure to strike off a Company pursuant to Section 353 of the Companies Act 1948 advocated by the Registrar of Companies in his letter published June 6 may be simpler for a Liquidator, it is not applicable in my experience to many situations. To invoke the striking off procedure may be both an abuse of the Companies Acts and costly. The Companies Act 1948 provides for a Company to be wound up by a Liquidator, the Creditors to be paid and any surplus assets distributed; Section 353 empowers the Registrar to strike off the Company and the assets, if any, to be bona vacantia and belong to the Crown, the Duchy of Lancaster or the Duke of Cornwall. Thus if the Company has any assets to invoke the Section

353 procedure is wrong, unless the Directors wish to make a gratuitous gift to the Crown etc., and this it is submitted is a breach of a Director's duty of care.

As it is necessary for any aggrieved member or Creditor to apply to the Court to restore the Company to the Register if any assets are overlooked before carrying out the prescribed winding-up procedure, no doubt you will draw to the attention of your readers, that the restoration procedure involves the payment of the fees of the Applicant's Solicitors, possibly a Barrister, the Court and the Department of Trade at the Hearing.

J. J. A. Cowdry, Director, The London Law Agency, Temple Chambers, Temple Avenue, ECA.

Machine tool malaise

From Miss Anne Daly

Sir, As one of the authors of the National Institute's study on the machine tool industry, might I comment on recent letters regarding the training of craftsmen in Britain. I cannot accept that "time-serving" as a basis for completing apprenticeship is now no more than a "myth," as Mr. Walshe suggests (June 6). The Think Tank's recent report (p.22) also came to the conclusion that there was still a need for "objective standards to be laid down by which qualifications may be judged," and this was fully borne out in our study of the machine tool industry.

In our study of this industry in Britain, America and Germany, we were interested in explaining current differences in productivity, and therefore in producing the training systems that had produced the current stock of craftsmen. In Britain, the vast majority of craftsmen have undoubtedly been trained under the time-serving basis, which contrasts with the more rigorous test-based system in Germany. There may well have been improvements in the past decade in the training given under the Engineering Industry Training Board's module system, but the important point remains that in order to be recognised as a qualified "craftsman" in the trade, there is still no requirement for an apprentice to follow these courses, nor to pass an externally-assessed examination in the skills taught. The passage of time is a sufficient condition.

The EITB courses may be well-designed, but unless appropriate economic incentives can be agreed upon to encourage their use, they can contribute little to overcoming the problem Britain faces in developing technically-advanced industries.

We do not believe (and did not intend to suggest) that the only problem facing the British machine tool industry was related to the training of craftsmen. We agree with Mr. Davis (June 11) that a shortage of well-trained technicians, design and production engineers has also created serious difficulties for the industry, as was indeed explained in our article. The supply of these higher skills (using the word in a general sense) is also affected by the lack of testing and certification among our "craftsmen," as

they do not have a recognised qualification which can be used as a basis for further study. This is in substantial contrast to the German system where, for example, 25 per cent of qualified engineers had completed an engineering apprenticeship.

These problems of training and vocational education are very general in British industry and Mr. Walshe seems to agree that the existence of the EITB has not solved all these problems in engineering. The manifold activities of the training boards in general cannot, in our view, as yet be taken as a sign that fundamental questions no longer need be asked about vocational training in Britain, and of the organisational framework in which it should take place.

Anne Daly, National Institute of Economic and Social Research, 2, Dean Trench Street, SW1.

Not a lot of policemen

From Mr. A. C. Berry

Sir, Mr. Ferguson's timely comments (June 10) about the lack of law enforcement as far as minor infringements are concerned deserve wider discussion. The official response would be, no doubt, that there are insufficient policemen to deal with all the misdemeanours occurring on the streets every day but what is increasingly obvious, for whatever reason, is that the police no longer keep "law and order" as they used to do.

The dangerous practice of cycling on the footpath, which Mr. Ferguson draws attention to, is a typical offence that has been allowed to mushroom mainly as a result of a policy of non-interference by either the policeman on foot or in a panda-car.

As well as the litter laws that Mr. Ferguson mentioned, I could add indiscriminate parking (often on the pavement or double yellow lines), vandalism and rowdiness as examples of a growing number of offences that are ignored or inadequately dealt with by the enforcement authorities.

What is particularly worrying is that much of this law breaking is anti-social behaviour which present and future generations honestly believe is permissible under this policy of non-enforcement by the police. It seems that if enough people break a law by simply ignoring it, that law becomes too much trouble to enforce and goes by default.

Mr. Ferguson is right, in my opinion, that we need more policemen on the beat. All too often, police presence is noticeable by its very absence. Thus the deterrent effect that used to be relied upon has disappeared.

Although large pay awards have helped to improve police recruitment, it seems to have done very little in some areas. Where I live, for example, only two officers are to be found on duty at certain times of the day and night, which clearly is a far from satisfactory situation.

From my discussions with individual officers, I have been alarmed by their attitude of apathy and indifference towards minor crime and therefore something needs to be done about police morale and the quality of recruitment.

A. C. Berry, 21, Traherne Lodge, Walpole Road, Teddington, Middlesex.

Today's Events

UK: Lord Thorneycroft, Conservative Party chairman, starts two-day visit to North Wales.

The Queen opens new medical education/clinical building, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Sir William Barlow, Post Office chairman, presents the first Farthing Medal, awarded to P.O. staff for the "most impressive piece of engineering technology."

Mr. Stanley Orme, Opposition health and social security spokesman, addresses South Derbyshire NUM summer school, Blackpool.

Prince Philip, as president, presents British Amateur Athletic Board trophies for 1978-1979; as president of City and Guilds of London Institute, presents the Prince Philip Medal for 1980, Buckingham Palace.

Mr. John Stonehouse applies for discharge from bankruptcy, London.

Sir Peter Gadsden, Lord Mayor of London, dines with Feltmakers' Company, Mansion House.

Essex County Agricultural Show opens, Chelmsford (to June 14).

Salvador Dali retrospective exhibition opens, Tate Gallery.

Overseas: Common Market Heads of Government summit meeting in Venice concludes.

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

House of Commons: Debate on Report of Funston Committee on Engineering.

House of Lords: Employment Bill, committee.

OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Retail prices index (May).

Tax and price index (May).

Building societies' monthly figures (May).

COMPANY MEETINGS

J. Dewhurst, The Royal Station Hotel, York, 12.

and Hill, Waldorf Hotel, Aldwych, WC, 12.15.

Harold Perry, Royal Automobile Club, 89 Pall Mall, SW, 12.

Peterson Group, Petroleum House, Rosemount Avenue, West Byfleet, Surrey, 12.30.

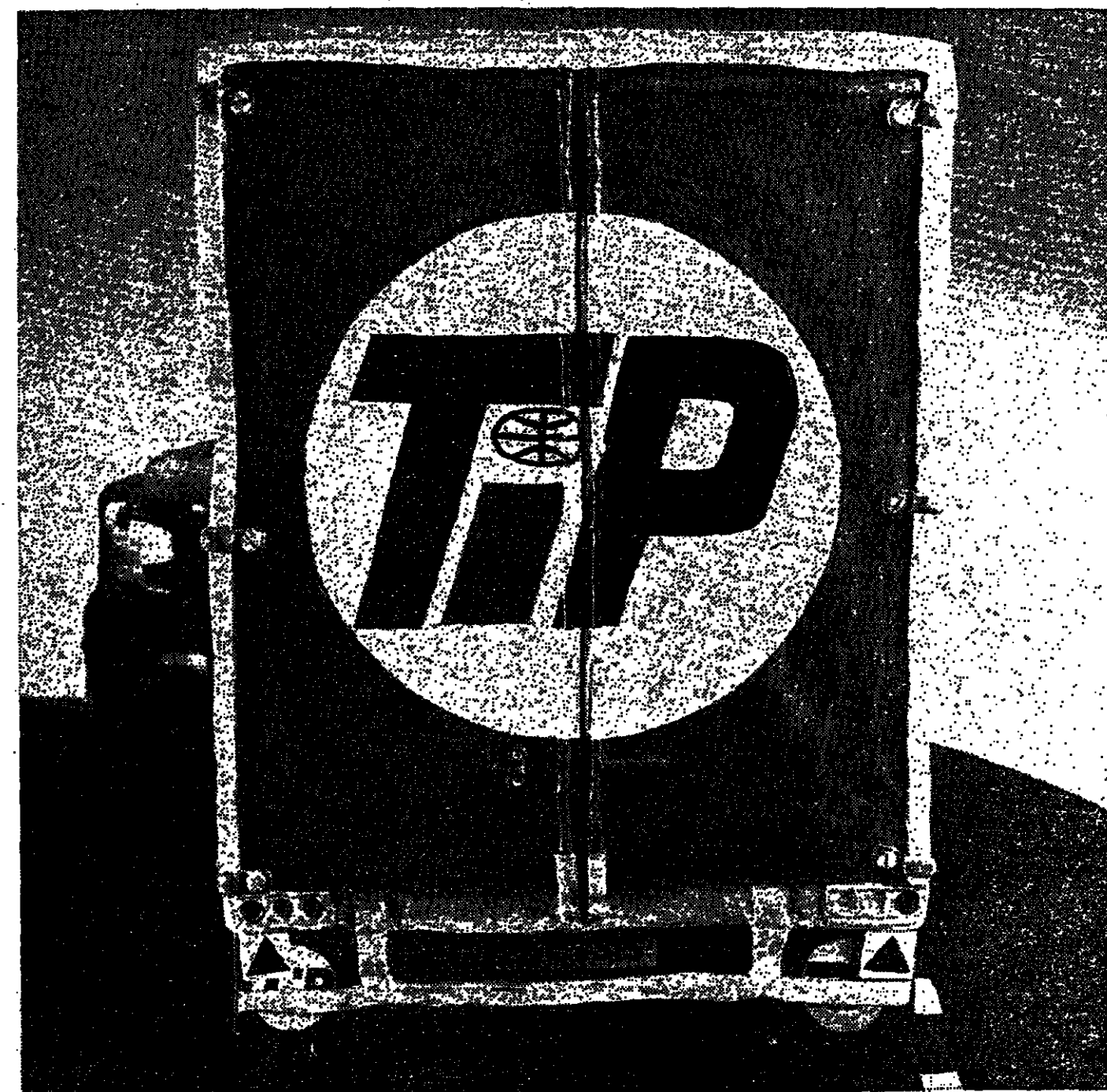
Roberts Adlard, Institute of Directors, Pall Mall, SW, 12.

Sunlight Services, London Westbury Hotel, Bond Street, W, 12.

Taylor Woodrow, The Warehouse, 53 St. Katherine's Way, E, 12.

COMPANY RESULTS

Final dividends: Alpine Soft Drinks, Andersons' Rubber, Highgate and Job Group, Pilkington Brothers, Interim dividends: Arthur Guinness Son, Interim figures: Tomkins Carpets.



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THE TRAILER RENTAL COMPANY

Row at Mersey Docks over surplus land sale

THE MERSEY Docks and Harbour Company is facing a growing revolt among its stockholders, many of whom are dissatisfied with the company's performance, particularly with its failure to sell off its surplus dockland.

At yesterday's annual general meeting in Liverpool Mr. Simon Knott, a London stockbroker, tried to unseat Mr. D. I. Heyes, chairman of the company's three-man advisory committee. Under the terms of the 1974 capital reconstruction the company's debenture stock was written down by 60 per cent, and as partial compensation stockholders received £20m of redeemable subordinated unsecured loan stock.

It was intended to redeem the loan stock from the proceeds of any sales of surplus docklands. But stockholders have received only 8p in the pound of loan stock and only 2.5p has been a direct result of property sales.

Because of the depressed state of the property market the company has held on to the surplus land and intends to lease it for development.

Many stockholders feel this is

not in the spirit of the 1974 agreement since they will receive no direct benefit from any leasehold or rental income.

Mr. Knott and several other dissenting shareholders feel the stockholders' advisory committee has not tried hard enough to persuade the Mersey Docks Company to sell off its surplus land.

Mr. Knott forced a vote on the re-election of Mr. Heyes yesterday. The result was a narrow win, but Mr. Heyes had many proxy votes on his side and attempted to unseat the chairman of the advisory committee.

The problem of the sale of the surplus docklands has been further complicated by the establishment of the Merseyside Urban Development Corporation. The stockholders committee feel it should be represented on the corporation but it seems unlikely its request will be granted.

CENTURY OILS

Century Oils has completed acquisition of the Helix de Windt group for £1.5m, satisfied by the issue of 904,436 ordinary

which have been placed on behalf of vendors.

Book value of net tangible assets of De Windt at end 1979 was £1.3m and for 1979 pre-tax profit came to £1.2m on sales of £1.33m.

Electra over £5.7m at year-end

Pre-tax group earnings of Electra Investment Trust, an Electra House company, improved from £4.84m to £5.72m in the year to March 31, 1980. Gross revenue for the year was up from £5.49m to £6.54m.

After tax of £1.89m against £1.78m, stated earnings per 25p ordinary stock unit are 7.83p (8.24p). The final dividend is raised from 3.5p to 4p, making the total 7p (5.8p) which includes a special non-recurring payment of 0.5p. Dividends absorb £3.2m (£2.4m).

Net asset value per ordinary stock unit at March 31, 1980 was 155.25p (163.75p).

RTZ faces the challenge of Cerro Colorado

BY KENNETH MARSTON, MINING EDITOR

LONDON'S Rio Tinto-Zinc international natural resource group is preparing to tackle what could be the biggest technical mining challenge that it has met so far—the huge but low grade Cerro Colorado copper deposit which sits some 500 metres to 1,500 metres above sea level on the backbone of western Panama, about 400-kilometres west of the city of Panama.

Following the recent disclosure by Sir Mark Turner, chairman of RTZ, that the group had reached an agreement with Panama's Codemina state mining agency on the development of Cerro Colorado, it is now announced that RTZ has acquired a 49 per cent interest in Empresa de Cerro Colorado, the operating company for the big project. The remaining 51 per cent is held by Codemina.

RTZ's stake consists of a 29 per cent interest formerly held by Codemina and the 20 per cent stake which America's Texasgulf held. The latter is now being sold to RTZ for \$5.5m (£3.3m). But Texasgulf has an option to acquire from RTZ an interest of approximately 15 per cent in the project if the agreement to go ahead is entered into.

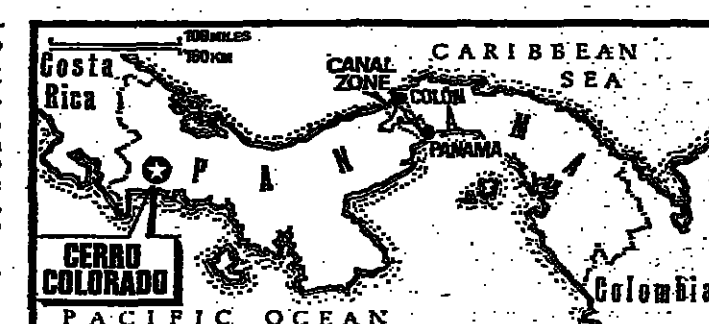
Before that stage is reached RTZ will carry out a \$10m to \$15m work over the next eight months to review the feasibility of the project and provide information on which decisions regarding its future should be based.

After this programme is completed it is intended that Codemina and RTZ will conclude an agreement covering the subsequent phases to the construction of the mine.

If RTZ decides to go ahead and Texasgulf decides not to exercise its option, the latter will receive some \$2m from RTZ to cover services rendered in connection with the eight months' work programme.

RTZ is thus paying some \$18m for the chance of finding out whether the project will be worthwhile. But this is small compared with what will be required to take the venture to production. It could be anything up to \$20m or so.

So if RTZ decides to go ahead and Texasgulf hangs back, other



partners may be sought. Alternatively, the venture might be launched on a relatively modest scale working the better grade ore, but it seems doubtful whether this would be feasible. Back in 1971 Canadian Javelin drilled Cerro Colorado and subsequent studies indicated that the deposit contained 1.3bn tonnes with an average grade of 0.78 per cent copper together with some molybdenum and silver in an area with an annual rainfall of some 200 inches.

But the combination of this low ore grade, uncertain copper prices, high capital costs and technical mining problems resulted in the intriguing deposit being left undeveloped.

Indeed, only last month Mr. Charles Barber, chairman of America's Asarco expressed surprise at RTZ's interest in the

project. He reckoned that under present conditions it was not possible prudently to assume a copper price high enough to justify a major development of deposits of this type.

Sir Mark Turner, however, has declared that "Cerro Colorado must rank as one of the great potential mines of the future." He is no doubt anticipating far higher copper prices in the latter part of this decade—the future is unlikely to reach peak production before then.

Cerro Colorado may also have the important advantage of relatively cheap hydro-electric power. But it remains a challenge, just as was RTZ's successful low grade Patagonia copper mine in South Africa and the Bougainville copper-gold deposit in the rain-soaked hills of Papua New Guinea.

Zambian Cobalt EEC loan

THE EEC is to loan Nchanga Consolidated Copper, the Zambian copper-cobalt producer, between \$8.8m and \$9.8m (£3.6m-£4.2m) by next September to help it develop the mines for irrigation and commercial fish ponds. This instruction denotes the revival of an idea tentatively put into practice and then dropped during the days when Sir Ronald Prain was the chairman of Roan Selection Trust.

President Kuunda has meanwhile left on a previously unannounced trip to meet President Samora Machel of Mozambique in Maputo. It is believed they will discuss the use of Beira as an export port for Zambian copper.

Oil and Gas News

Strata's gas find disappoints

Disappointment for shareholders in Australia's Strata Oil comes with news there have been no further significant hydrocarbon indications in Strata's Woodada No. 1 well in the Perth Basin, 13 km north west of Eneabba.

On May 28 Strata announced that two tests on the well produced encouraging gas flows. Strata's shares shot up from 10p to 32p immediately following the initial statement and are currently standing at 33p.

Strata has a 26.95 per cent interest in the well and Hughes and Hughes of Texas 65 per cent.

Meanwhile, Strata, along with Reef Oil, Basin Oil and Brunswick Oil, have reached agreement with Delhi Petroleum, Santos, Bridge Oil and Vangas

to farm into the 33,000 square km Wilparoo Block in ATP 259-P, in the Eromanga Basin of Queensland.

The terms of the agreement, which is subject to Queensland Department of Mines approval, provide for the farm-in companies to contribute 45 per cent of the cost of a 700 km seismic programme to be completed by December this year, and to have the option to contribute 45 per cent of the cost of a well to be completed by December 1981.

Brunswick, Reef, Basin and Strata will each earn a 4.5 per cent interest in the block on completion of drilling the first well.

Australia's Woodside Petroleum is currently studying results of a number of further

tests on the Buffon No. 1 well drilled in the Browse Basin of the North West Shelf. Initial tests run on volcanic sediments taken from the well, and which contained moderately high indications of gas, proved difficult to interpret.

On completion Woodside will have a 25 per cent interest in Buffon No. 1. BP Petroleum Australia 41.66 per cent, Shell (Australia) 25 per cent and Hematite Petroleum, a unit of BHP, 8.33 per cent.

Cie Française des Petroles has signed an oil exploration contract with the Egyptian Government, involving 40 sq km in the El-Darag region of the Gulf of Suez. Under the eight-year agreement the French company is committed to invest U.S.\$16m (£8.65m).

On this basis, accumulated group surplus at March 31, 1980 would be reduced by £233,000 and secured loans in the group balance sheet would be increased by the same amount. The balance sheet figure for loans was £17.3m (£23.2m).

Meeting, Baltic Exchange Chambers, EC, July 8, 11 am.

BRITISH CINEMATOPHORE THEATRES—Turnover, year to January 31, 1980, £2,015,025 (£2,272,972), profit £26,228 (£105,585) before tax, £127 (£3,651). Extraordinary credit £2,917 (debit £6,884) from sale of property. Earnings 9.45p (11.55p) per share. Dividend 2.1p (1.75p).

SCOTTISH ONTARIO INVESTMENT COMPANY—Results for year to March 31 reported April 30. UK investments £12.53m (£16.18m), overseas £9.23m (£10.71m), unquoted £68,000 (£12,000). Total assets £22.76m (£23.19m). Meeting, Edinburgh, July 4, 12.30 pm.

SCOTTS RESTAURANTS—Results for 1979: Net dividend 3.2p (2.16p); turnover £22.01m (£17.72m); pre-tax profit £2,540 (£21,153); tax charge £50,728 (credit £14,187); leaving £2,489 (£6,966). Stated earnings per 12p share 16.3p (£14.1p). Comparatives have been restated following change in accounting policy for deferred tax, increasing 1978 profits after tax by £22,686.

BIDS AND DEALS

Burger King in deal with MAM

BURGER KING, the fast food chain which sells hamburgers under the trade mark, has signed a major franchising agreement with the Management, Agency and Music Group.

MAM has substantial catering and entertainment interests, and the new agreement will result in the opening of at least 16 restaurants over a five-year period. The project anticipates a total investment of £5m.

The first of these restaurants, said Burger King yesterday, all of which will be located in the London TV area, is expected to open before the end of this year, with more scheduled for 1981.

Mr. Buddy Vastek, general manager of Burger King in the UK, said yesterday he was delighted to have MAM with us at this stage of our expansion in the UK, and we are currently seeking more partners for further ventures.

Burger King has recently signed three other franchise agreements. The first covers a single restaurant in Luton which will open in October; the second, for six restaurants in the London

area, one of which is now under construction in New Oxford Street and also opens in October. A third agreement covers a number of restaurants in North West London.

Burger King currently operates two company-owned restaurants in London, in Victoria Street and Coventry Street where turnover has increased by 30 per cent in the past year.

In the last financial year, the Burger King company opened 31 restaurants, bringing the worldwide total to 2,677. It is anticipated that a further 225 restaurants will be opened during the next year.

BIOC/VERO PAYMENT

As indicated at the time of BIOC's acquisition of Vero Electronics last November, a further payment of £2.25m of £1,225,412 has become payable to former shareholders in Vero.

This will be satisfied by £737,034 cash and the balance of £588,378 by the issue of 475,266 ordinary shares.

Exchange clears listing of new G. Ewer shares

AS THE twists and turns continued in the bitterly contested battle between George Ewer and T. Cowie the Stock Exchange yesterday gave the green light to the listing for the new Ewer shares, issued under the Eastern Tractors acquisition.

A last minute appeal by Cowie against the listing was dismissed by the Exchange. The formal application to be presented. This will be made on Monday, June 16 and listing is expected to be granted on June 18.

Allowing for the duration of the new Ewer shares, Cowie is thought to have just over 45 per cent of the shares. But Ewer was in the market again yesterday buying shares at above the offer price of 52p.

Mr. Henry Ewer, chairman of Ewer, said yesterday he thought Cowie would find it difficult to secure any further support.

But Ewer was not the only party in the market buying shares. Barclays Merchant Bank has asked the Stock Exchange Panel to make enquiries into Ewer share purchases yesterday.

With the problem solved over the listing of the new Ewer shares, the holders must decide what action to take over the bid. County Bank said that some strong assurances would need to be given about the future of Eastern Tractors if they were to accept. In the meantime shareholders should stay with the Ewer board which continues to oppose the bid.

Mr. Tom Cowie, chairman of T. Cowie, said yesterday that he would take a "sensible and mature look again" at the

offer.

BROKERS LINK UP

The London stockbroking firm of Benson Langner and Co. has signed an association with Thompsons Equity and Life Brokers, a firm of insurance brokers, and tax planners, the aim being to widen the scope of services that each offers to their respective clients.

This type of association between stockbroker and insurance broker, cum tax planner is likely to become increasingly popular. Clients of the stockbroker of their own advice on tax matters, the solution lying outside the role of the stockbroker.

And insurance brokers have sought to widen their client base by offering expert management for their portfolios or wish to build up their own portfolio of stocks and shares.

Benson Langner has a large private clientele, many of whom have sought advice on Capital Transfer Tax problems in particular. This, Benson said, could both firms can now extend fully the range of planning services.

Belhaven completes

Belhaven Brewery has completed the sale of its Bermuda subsidiary Colonial-Cove Hotels to a company set up by Mr. Daniel Venter, a U.S. businessman and associate of Mr. Eric Morley, chairman and chief executive of Belhaven said that the company is now poised to move forward with expansion into the leisure industry and hopes to have news of acquisitions shortly. Current negotiations are at an advanced stage for sale of two further hotels compared with net tangible assets owned but not operated by the company.

The agreement with Scopwick Investments and the directors of Belhaven from Colonial at March 31, 1980, net of Belhaven's related borrowings of £400,000, Pullings will come under the complete financial and management control of Belhaven.

LONDON SUMATRA PLANTATIONS LIMITED

Issued & Paid-up Capital—£1,583,771 in 70p shares
Securities
Harrison & Crossfield Limited

Year ended 31.12.79 31.12.78

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT & DIVIDEND

Profit after tax £5,648,309 4,765,475
Extraordinary items 686,472 2,734,514
Profit attributable to shareholders 4,961,837 2,030,961
Dividends—per 10p share 8.0p 6.0p
—absorbing 1,274,536 955,902

CROPS HARVESTED '000 lbs.

Rubber 19,500 20,500
Cocoa Beans & Kernels 46,800 41,100
Coffee 380 500
Tea 980 900
Cocoa 280 140

PLANTED ACREAGE (Subject to survey)
Rubber, Oil Palm, Coffee, Tea, Cocoa, Coconuts—105,315 acres.
Annual General Meeting—9th July 1980

HARTWELLS GROUP LIMITED

Cars and Commercial Vehicles, Agricultural Equipment, Heating Services and Fuel-Oil Distribution

Year ended 29th February 1980 1979

Turnover £200's 142,534 £200's 139,113

Profit before Interest & Taxation 2,895 2,722

Less Interest & Stock Finance Charges 1,094 1,094

Profit before Taxation 2,841 2,722

Earnings 2,467 1,942

Dividends 611 42

Earnings per Ordinary Share 23.5p 20.3p

Dividends per Ordinary Share 5.3p 8.5p

* Record year—Profits up 27% on previous year

* Net Dividends (as adjusted for Capitalisation Issue June 1979) up 16.7% over 1979, 83.3% over 1978

Annual General Meeting—Oxford, 4th July 1980. Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from The Secretary, Hartwells Group Limited, Seacourt Tower, West Way, Oxford OX2 0P

Wilkins & Mitchell Limited

Manufacturers of Wilkins & Mitchell power presses and Servis washing machines

Extracts from the Annual Report for the 52 weeks ended 29 December, 1979

Results in brief	52 weeks ended 29 Dec 1979	39 weeks ended 30 Dec 1978
Group Turnover	£700	£700
	47,722	42,463
Group profit after taxation and extraordinary items	331	108
Retained profit	189	2
Dividends	142	106
Earnings per Ordinary Share	4.2p	9.4p
Dividends per Ordinary Share	2.21p	1.66p
Net Assets per Ordinary Share	103.52p	100.58p

Servis Domestic Appliances Division
During the year under review we have invested £1,379,000 in extending and modernising the Servis Domestic Appliances Ltd. factories and service depots, and the additional costs committed to complete this phase of development are estimated at £467,000.

Wilkins & Mitchell Press Division
The main plant at Darlston has had a satisfactory work load during the period, although margins have been difficult. The anticipated results were spoilt by the National Engineering dispute.

Prospects
It is your board's policy continually to improve the company's products and competitiveness in order to expand. With this in mind, the group has negotiated with its bankers a term loan of £2,000,000. The investment in Servis Domestic Appliances reflects the confidence your directors have in the future of the company.

The demand for Servis domestic appliances remains buoyant and a satisfactory profit performance has been achieved in the first few months of the current year.

The Power Press Division maintains a reasonable order book and there are some good prospects.

We are hopeful that provided the company has a continuity of production throughout the year we should achieve the recovery for which we have worked.

Final Dividend of 1.46p per share will be payable on 23 June.

The Annual General Meeting was held at Wolverhampton on Thursday 12 June. Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained on request from The Secretary, Wilkins & Mitchell Limited, Richards Street, Darlston, Wednesbury, West Midlands WS10 8AN.

FARNELL

Record year for Farnell Electronics

ELECTRONICS GROUP

Results for the year ended 31st January

	1980	1979
Sales	£900's 25,255	£900's 22,249
Profit before tax	5,118	4,050
Net profit	2,889	1,929
Earnings per share	18.63p	12.44p
Dividend per share	4.00p	2.95p
Times covered	4.66	4.22
Asset value per share	74.67p	62.43p

"Funding of Group Trading requirements is expected to be covered adequately from company resources and profits generated. Management is fully confident that progress can be maintained in the coming year."

R. KIDD, B.Sc., Chairman

Group Trading Companies

Farnell Electronic Components Ltd. a specialist company in the distribution of electronic components to Manufacturers, Research and Educational establishments and Government Departments.

Farnell Instruments Ltd. one of the leading United Kingdom manufacturers of stabilised power supplies and well established in electronic measuring and test equipment market.

Farnell Audio Visual Ltd. Farnell International Instruments Ltd.

A. C. Farnell Ltd. B.B.H. Coil & Transformer Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from The Secretary, Farnell Electronics Limited, Farnell House, 81 Kirkstall Road, Leeds LS11 1HR.

BBC BROWN BOVERI

BBC Brown Boveri Finance (Curaçao) N.V.

Notice to Holders of the 4 1/4 US\$ Convertible Bonds 1978/93 of BBC Brown Boveri Finance (Curaçao) N.V.

At the Annual General Meeting held on June 10, 1980 the shareholders of BBC Brown Boveri & Company, Limited have approved to increase the company's share and participation certificate capital.

With effect as of June 16, 1980, the rate of conversion will therefore be adjusted to

5.24 Bearer Participation Certificates for each Bond of US\$ 1050.—principal amount.

If two or more Bonds are delivered together for conversion on behalf of one holder they will be aggregated in order to determine the number of Bearer Participation Certificates to be issued in respect thereof.

If the conversion of any Bond or Bonds results in a fraction, there shall be paid to the holder in cash such amount in US\$ as results from the sale of the fractional entitlement on the Zurich Stock Exchange.


Willemstad (Curaçao), June 13, 1980

BBC Brown Boveri Finance (Curaçao) N.V.

هكلمن التحويل

These certificates have been sold. This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

New Issue May 1980




US\$20,000,000

The Mitsubishi Bank, Limited
(London Branch)

Negotiable Floating Rate Certificates of Deposit
Maturity Date May 31, 1983

Arranged by
Orion Bank Limited Mitsubishi Bank (Europe) S.A.

Agent Bank
Orion Bank Limited


Companies
and Markets

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES and FINANCE

KLOECKNER-HUMBOLDT-DEUTZ

Riding high on the diesel revival

BY ROGER BOYES IN BONN

WEST GERMAN engine manufacturers could be forgiven for feeling that the oil crisis, like hanging, concentrates the mind wonderfully. The motor industry's pre-occupation with fuel economy has sparked off a trend to diesel engines which is opening up wide opportunities in the U.S. and other overseas markets.

At the hub of the diesel revival is a well-established German company whose name is almost synonymous with engine production—Kloekner-Humboldt-Deutz. KHD was founded in 1884 by Herr N. A. Otto—the inventor of the carburettor and the principle of the four-stroke engine—and Herr Eugen Langen. The "Deutz" in KHD stands for the Cologne suburb where Herr Otto's first factory stood. Even today petrol engines are known as "Otto engines" in Germany.

Herr Otto's company merged with the Humboldt mechanical engineering concern in the 1920s, then the Kloekners, an old German steel family, bought a majority shareholding in the concern. This has given KHD a broad industrial base to face the difficult post-war years and has allowed it to diversify into agricultural machinery, turnkey

industrial plant construction and commercial vehicles.

During various German engineering crises KHD has moved in and out of a number of industrial areas and, apart from lean times in the early 1970s, has consistently done well. Sales have been well above DM 300m (\$170m) for the past three years compared to DM 180m just over a decade ago. But its profit margins are under considerable pressure.

Despite the diversification, KHD has stayed with its traditional strength of engine production, guaranteeing itself an important market niche for the 1980s. It is Germany's largest producer of diesel and gas turbine engines.

Diesel engine production is not new to Europe. Substitution of diesel oil for petrol in cars has been taking root in Germany and France, especially since the 1973 oil crisis, and diesel oil has long been the standard fuel of German trucks and buses.

But the United States is different. International Harvester, for example, has predicted that the proportion of U.S. diesel-engined trucks in the 9-11.8 tonnes range would rise from about 8 per cent in 1973

to 15 per cent this year and to 35 per cent by 1985.

This is a substantial opportunity for competitive producers of diesel engines, even if U.S. truck production is flagging. The potential has not been over-

KHD, the West German engineering company, is preparing itself for the strong trend to diesel engines in the U.S. and other overseas markets. It is, for example, setting up a network of international supply and assembly agreements and selling minority stakes.

looked by other German manufacturers—Daimler-Benz, Volkswagen and Maschinenfabrik Augsburg-Nürnberg (MAN)—are expanding their stakes in the U.S. and Latin America.

KHD hopes to raise its annual U.S. sales of air-cooled diesel engines to more than 40,000 by the middle of the decade from 22,000 now. As a springboard, it bought last year an assembly plant in Richmond,

Indiana, from American Motors Corporation. On the surface there seemed to be parallels with the ultimately unsuccessful efforts of MAN to take over White Motors of Cleveland.

The underlying logic was the same: the strength of the Deutsche Mark against the dollar was pushing its export prices too high while U.S. labour and production costs were significantly below Germany's.

But unlike MAN, KHD is no longer interested in producing commercial vehicles. In the early 1970s, KHD merged its commercial vehicle section with Fiat's in a new holding company, Iveco. It was intended to be a major challenger to Daimler-Benz. KHD now wants to sell its 20 per cent holding in Iveco to Fiat and completely shed its commercial vehicle interests. Fiat is complaining about the price but KHD expects the sale to go ahead. This will free KHD to supply diesel engines to competitors of Iveco and thus capitalise fully on the diesel revival.

Iveco is committed to buying a large number of engines from KHD over the next five years

despite KHD's departure. Last year KHD supplied 23,000 engines to Iveco.

Herr Rodo Lüsse, KHD chairman, recently spelled out the company's strategy for the 1980s: no more minority stakes, strong sales growth partly through a network of international supply and assembly agreements, more investment in research and development to keep competitive and the modernisation of domestic works.

This is the strategy of an independent company, as Herr Lüsse emphasises. The market has speculated that KHD has been holding back over-talk with Volkswagen. Senior executives stress that it simply does not make sense for KHD to throw its lot with VW at this stage because it would reverse its recently won flexibility.

The company, however, does not rule out some sort of agreement of research and development with a motor manufacturer. KHD is currently testing the effects of alternative fuels for its engines and has already produced a "diesel" modified for a methanol-based fuel.

KLM forced to pass dividend

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR IN AMSTERDAM

KLM will not pay a dividend for the year ended March 31 following the sharp increase in fuel costs and mounting competition from airlines offering cut-price travel.

At the net level, profits last year slumped to F1 15m (\$7.7m) from F1 82m, with operating profits down to F1 17m compared to F1 90m. Revenues were F1 3,240m, or 14 per cent higher than for 1978-79.

KLM's shareholders are no strangers to missed dividends. In 1978-79 the airline paid F1 7 a share which was F1 1 down on the previous 12 months. Before that there were five years of missed payments.

The company's net interest charge rose to F1 23m against F1 9m. The sale of aircraft

and other equipment produced F1 4m compared with F1 1m the year before.

The company paid no tax last year because of accumulated losses. It still has an accumulated loss of about F1 200m which it can set against future profits.

Traffic rose 11 per cent to 3,350m tonnes km with growth occurring primarily in the low-tariff sectors. The load factor increased to 61.1 per cent from 60.1 per cent.

Traffic revenues rose faster than volume—by 16 against 11 per cent. Fare increases still lagged behind fuel price rises, however, leaving F1 95m of the F1 298m increase uncompensated for.

Amey, the second-largest

Dutch insurance group, reports a 19 per cent rise in first quarter net profit to F1 24.7m. Group turnover increased by 13 per cent to F1 835m, while total sums insured rose to F1 56.3m from F1 53.7m.

Together with realised gains on investments, profit before tax of the life insurance operations increased by F1 4.8m to F1 22m. The increase was aided by high money market rates. Non-life business also showed an increase with results before tax and provisions improving by F1 2.8m to F1 9.4m.

Amey said that "barring unforeseen circumstances" profit for 1980 as a whole could be expected to grow by more than 10 per cent.

Sharp rise in sales at Huels

BY JONATHAN CARR IN BONN

CHEMISCHE WERKE HUELS (CWH), the key chemicals subsidiary of Veba energy concern, reports sharply increased sales for the first five months of 1980 and expects "satisfactory profits" for the year as a whole.

Dr. Karl Moenckmeyer, the chairman, said group turnover had risen in January-May by 25.4 per cent to DM 2,530m (\$1,430m) and that of the parent company by 25.1 per cent to DM 2,180m.

Profits for the first quarter were satisfactory (but not specified) although there had been some slowdown since a double figure dividend for 1980 was likely, but there were uncertainties on how far increased energy costs could be passed on in higher prices.

At this time last year Huels also expressed misgivings about business in the second half—but its final 1979 figures show a highly positive result.

Net profit for 1979 increased sharply from DM 17.3m to DM 84.1m. A transfer of DM 34.3m has been made to reserves, and a 14 per cent dividend is being paid. Both group and parent company sales virtually doubled, the former to DM 5.5bn and the latter to DM 4.6bn.

The spectacular growth rates are partly the result of the restructuring of Veba's chemicals interests, which have placed more production activities under the Huels umbrella. But they also indicate that the company is having marked success in its trend to greater product specialisation—a policy also reflected in its purchase of a stake in Roehm, the Darmstadt-based plexiglass manufacturer. E. MERCK, the Darmstadt-based pharmaceuticals concern, expects world sales growth of about 10 per cent this year after a rise of 8.9 per cent to DM 1.8bn in 1979. The company is planning 1980 investment of at least DM 150m of which \$25m alone will be in the U.S.

First quarter growth at UCB

By Our Financial Staff

TRADING at UCB, the Belgian group whose activities range from chemicals to packaging and films, has been maintained at a favourable level during the first quarter of 1980.

All group divisions have produced good results in the wake of the strong recovery that occurred last year and helped to more than treble 1974 profits.

However, trading during subsequent months has slackened. European chemical demand has fallen off noticeably since March and signs of weakness have crept into the group's film operations in the UK. Pharmaceuticals have remained strong.

Last year UCB achieved profits before tax of Bfr 473m (\$17m) up from Bfr 151m and a final dividend of Bfr 80 a share was paid to shareholders. Total payment to the Bfr 150 level last seen three years earlier.

Expansion hits Karstadt's profits

BY KEVIN DONE IN FRANKFURT

KARSTADT'S rapid expansion in recent years—it is now the largest retail organisation outside the U.S.—is being achieved at a growing cost to the group's profitability.

After-tax profits fell to DM 17.2m last year compared with DM 24m in 1977-78, while group sales grew by 4.3 per cent to DM 12.2bn (\$6.8bn).

The reduced dividend of DM 6.00 per share down by DM 1.50 from 1978's level, paid by the parent company was only possible because the company chose to draw partly on reserves. Parent company after-tax profits fell from DM 64m in 1978 to DM 43.2m last year, the lowest point for more than 10 years.

The group's majority-owned mail order subsidiary Necker-

mann, taken over in 1976-77 in which Karstadt holds a 51.2 per cent interest, managed to significantly reduce its losses last year, but it still had a deficit of DM 25.9m compared with a loss of DM 10m in 1978.

Karstadt has still to recover from the far-reaching reorganisation of the group, which began in 1977. It has undertaken the integration of the whole of its Keps chain of smaller department stores into the main Karstadt retail group—some stores have been closed or rented out, while others have been turned into specialist stores for furniture and furnishings or sport and leisure goods.

At the same time it has had to assimilate the department stores sector of the Neckermann

group, which was saved from financial collapse in 1978.

Of the 67 Keps stores operating as an independent entity in 1977, only 11 remained by the end of last year, and a further seven will be closed during the course of 1980.

Unlike its major rival Kaufhof, which is developing intensively its chain of smaller stores under the separate identity of Kaufhalle, Karstadt is aiming for a unified image under one name.

At the same time it is developing speciality stores in specific sectors in which it sees prospects of strong growth in the next decade, such as furniture and furnishings, hobby and sports goods, electrical goods and some hardware.

German energy group ahead

ESSEN—STEAG, an energy company controlled by Ruhrkohle, reported its 1979 group profits increased 15.4 per cent to DM 25.04m (\$14.43m).

The company increased its 1979 dividend to DM 12 per share from DM 10 in 1978. Some DM 14.2m were added to reserves, up from DM 12.9m in 1978, STEAG said.

Sales of the STEAG group, mainly of electricity and energy services, rose 27 per cent to DM 2,060m in 1979 from DM 1,630m in 1978.

The sharpest rise, 206 per cent was recorded by STEAG's trading division, which increased sales to DM 437m from DM 143m in 1978.

Sales of the power generating division rose 8 per cent to DM 1,390m, STEAG said.

Investments, at DM 102m, were sharply down from DM 174m in 1978. Last year capital goods investments totalled DM 66.2m, of which DM 63.3m were invested in the power-generating and heating divisions.

AP-DJ

Hoechst sells sunglasses producer to subsidiary

BY TERRY DODSWORTH, IN PARIS

ROUSSEL-UCFAL, the French pharmaceuticals company, plans to become one of the world's leading sunglasses manufacturing groups through the acquisition of Foster Grant in the U.S. for about Ffr 108m (\$36.5m). Both Ucfal and Foster Grant are owned by West German chemicals group, Hoechst.

The deal follows only a few months after the French company bought an 80 per cent stake in Societe d'Application des Matieres Plastiques, the producer of the Solar range of sunglasses and goggles, which is claimed to be the third largest European company in its sector.

Foster Grant is reckoned to have an even more dominant position in the U.S. mass market, controlling about 30 per cent of sales.

Rouscel-Ucfal, with more than half of its current sales overseas, has been following a vigorous policy of foreign expansion.

But the agreement with Foster

Grant also falls within the framework of a reorganisation in the interests of Hoechst, which has a 58 per cent stake in Rouscel-Ucfal.

With these new acquisitions, Rouscel-Ucfal is predicting rapid expansion in its business to a turnover of Ffr 7bn in 1982, compared with Ffr 4.5bn last year.

Profits rose only marginally last year to Ffr 107m on a consolidated basis, the company had a cash flow of Ffr 288m which, it says, should largely enable it to finance expansion in its traditional areas of business, such as chemicals, health and veterinary products.

A capital increase last year from Ffr 334m to Ffr 444m has helped take care of any financial worries it might have in funding its external growth.

The company added that investments are to be maintained at the rate of about Ffr 300m a year.

Restructuring for Spanish textile group

BY ROBERT GRAHAM IN MADRID

AFTER MORE than two years of negotiation a Government-sponsored agreement has been reached on the future of Intelhorce, the largest textile manufacturer in southern Spain, whose accumulated losses total about \$150m.

One of the principal elements of the agreement involves a write off by the shareholders, mainly Banco de Madrid and Cadesbank, of Pta 7.5bn (\$107m) of borrowings plus a write down of Pta 3bn (\$42.8m) capital to a nominal single peseta.

The agreement has been made possible by the absorption last month by Spain's leading bank, Banesto, of the Banco de Madrid and the reboating of Cadesbank. The accumulated losses at Intelhorce had been the principal burden on the two banks.

In addition, a further Pta 5.4bn (\$87.3m) of outstanding debts is to be restructured and refinanced. The Government has undertaken to find new operating capital for the company.

It is likely that the state holding company INI, will be obliged to buy out the company since the Government has undertaken to retain its 2,870 workers at the Intelhorce plant in Malaga.

The fate of Intelhorce has aroused tremendous passion in Southern Spain where the company is the largest industrial employer. The company was established in 1957 by INI following pressure by regional authorities to lessen the Costa del Sol's dependence upon tourism.

In 1972 INI sold out a number of Barcelona textile interests which included Cadesbank and the Castell group which was linked to Banco de Madrid.

Trade unions insisted that the sale was prompted by pressure from the powerful Barcelona textile lobby which felt Intelhorce's lower labour costs and

modern machinery was providing too much competition. After the sale Intelhorce's administration and marketing operations were transferred to Barcelona.

In the late 1970s Intelhorce began to run into financial difficulties, due to competition from developing country exports. This led to moves in early 1978 to sell the company back to INI. At first the Government opposed the idea.

However, the difficulties Intelhorce created for its main shareholders has ultimately obliged the Government to intervene.

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World markets as they move



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هكنا من النحل

City Developments S\$65m rights to fund diversification

BY GEORGE LEE IN SINGAPORE

CITY DEVELOPMENTS, one of Singapore's biggest property developers, has announced a rights issue of two new shares for every three held, at a price of S\$1.60 per share, to finance diversification into the hotel industry and other investment projects.

Together with its announcement of the rights issue, which will raise some S\$64.8m (US\$ 30.42m) for City Developments, the property group disclosed that it has agreed to acquire a 64.5 per cent stake in the King's Hotel Limited for S\$13.6m cash, and the entire issued capital, land and building of Orchid Inn for S\$21.5m.

The King's Hotel Limited, which is a public listed company with an issued capital of 4.5m shares at S\$1.60 per share, is the owner and operator of a 312-room hotel in Singapore. King's Hotel reported pre-tax profit of S\$1.23m (US\$560,444) for the year ended December 1979.

City Developments, which is acquiring 2.9m shares in King's Hotel, has been granted exemption by the Securities Industry Council from having to make an offer to acquire the remaining shares.

Of the 2.9m shares offered to City Developments, 1.5m shares came from its related company, the Hong Leong Finance Group, and the remainder from other shareholders who are believed also to be major shareholders of City Developments.

Orchid Inn which sits on 15,152 square metres of freehold land in Singapore is undergoing a major expansion which will raise its present capacity of 122 rooms to 321 rooms by the end of next year.

The total cost of the expansion, estimated at S\$15.2m will be borne by City Developments, thus raising its total investment in Orchid Inn to S\$36.7m.

Orchid Inn reported pre-tax profit of S\$477,000 (US\$ 344,444) for the year ended November 1979. However, the current year's profit is not expected to exceed this figure in view of the hotel's reduced capacity while construction is in progress.

Substantial shareholders of City Developments have agreed to subscribe to 55.1 per cent of the proposed rights issue. Morgan Grenfell Asia will underwrite the balance of the issue.

Offer by Bank of NSW subsidiary

SYDNEY — The Bank of

New South Wales subsidiary, Australian Guarantee Corporation, said that it is offering debentures and unsecured notes with coupons ranging from 9.5 per cent to 12.25 per cent compared with 9.5 per cent to 11.75 per cent on its previous series.

The company said that it will issue A\$180m (US\$203.16m) of the debentures and notes, with a maximum of A\$70m more of over-subscriptions.

It said that it is issuing preference debentures with maturities of one year at 10.75 per cent against 10.50 per cent for its previous series, two years at 11.50 per cent (11.25 per cent), three and four years at 12.25 per cent (11.75 per cent) and five years at 12 per cent (11.50 per cent).

It will offer unsecured notes for three months and then at call at 9.5 per cent (same), for one year at 11.25 per cent (11.0 per cent) and for two years at 12.25 per cent (11.5 per cent).

The company added it will also offer first charge debentures with compound interest for up to 10 years with rates of up to 12.25 per cent.

Renter

Advance by Yeo Hiap Seng

SINGAPORE — Yeo Hiap Seng, the food and beverage group, posted a 24.9 per cent gain in pre-tax profits for the half year to March 31, to S\$5.2m (US\$3.45m) over the year-earlier period. Sales advanced by 16.2 per cent to S\$28.6m (US\$13.45m). However, the company has declared an interim dividend of 7 Singapore cents, down from 10 Singapore cents a year earlier.

The company said the improvement in group sales was due particularly to overseas operations.

AP DJ

COMMERCIAL BANKS IN BAHRAIN

A tougher year for profits

BY MARY FRINGS IN BAHRAIN

THE BAHRAIN BRANCH of Grindlays Bank showed a 90 per cent improvement in profit to BD 450,000 (\$1.2m) in 1979, according to figures for the commercial banking market released by the Bahrain Monetary Agency. But its return on average assets was only 1.78 per cent, in a difficult financial climate which pared margins to a minimum. Eight other branches of international banks did less well than in 1978.

The 19 commercial banks reporting to the BMA, one more than in 1978, recorded total assets of BD 945m (\$2.5bn), an increase of 16 per cent. Profits amounted to BD 15.7m (\$42m) compared with BD 10m in the previous year, but the bulk of the increase was extraordinary income collected by the three locally-incorporated banks on offshore share issues. Without this special factor, overall profitability is likely to have been lower than in 1978. The three local banks together accounted for 57.8 per cent of the total assets and 66 per cent of the profits.

Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK) was top of the table in terms of size, for the first time outstripping its longer-established rival, National Bank of Bahrain, although it must be borne in mind that BBK consolidates the results of its Bahrain operation with both the offshore banking unit and the branch in Kuwait. BBK showed a 38 per cent increase in net ordinary income, and a return

on average assets of 2.13 per cent.

Some banks claim the figures reported to the BMA for branches of major international banks are of no value in assessing performance. This is the case with Citibank, which has a commercial bank, an off-

Continental Bank, incorporated in the Cayman Islands as a joint venture between Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company and Bahraini interests, has shown a loss in each of its three years of operation, although there was a marginal improvement in

COMMERCIAL BANKS IN BAHRAIN

	1979 profit BD 000	Change %	Assets BDm	Return on assets %
Al-Ahli Commercial	894	(first year)	24.01	6.11
Banque du Caire	141	+1	3.24	3.89
Chase Manhattan	209	-46	7.40	3.17
Habib	314	+34	10.16	3.11
Rafidain	117	-2	5.41	2.17
Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait	5,762	+38	318.54	2.13
Chartered Bank	1,909	+16	96.3	2.04
United Bank	400	-15	23.52	1.79
Grindlays Bank	450	-91	37.11	1.78
National Bank of Bahrain	3,680	+26	201.9	1.69
Arab Bank	250	+35	15.52	1.65
Brit. Bank of Middle East	896	+27	53.94	1.54
Paribas	146	-29	11.86	1.31
Algemeine Bank Nederland	89	-26	9.54	1.08
Bank Saderat Iran	147	-69	12.07	1.07
National Bank of Abu Dhabi	68	-55	10.29	0.76
Bank Mellat Iran	257	+55	40.62	0.65
Citibank	43	-89	54.52	0.11
Continental Bank	*-101	+5	5.75	-1.70

* Loss. † Against loss of BD 106,000 in 1978.

shore banking unit (OBU), and a regional treasury office in Bahrain. The published profits of the commercial operation show an 89 per cent drop from BD 549,000 to BD 63,000, with a return on average assets of 0.11 per cent.

Chase Manhattan still shows a good rate of return at 3.17 per cent, but actual profit fell 46 per cent to BD 209,000.

1979 from a loss of BD 106,000 to a loss of BD 101,000. One view is that Continental's role in the market, as a wholesale bank, was snatched away by OBU's, many of them with far greater capital strength. Negotiations are going on between the shareholders, and there may be changes in structure before the end of the year.

United Bank of India growth

BY P. C. MAHANTI IN CALCUTTA

THE United Bank of India, the 10th largest public sector bank, and the 10th largest commercial bank in India, has achieved a better rate of deposit growth in 1979 than the banking industry as a whole.

Deposits went up during the year to Rs 11,67bn (\$1.5bn) from Rs 9.5bn, a growth rate of 21.5 per cent against the industry average of 18 per cent.

However, the United Bank's growth rate in advances of 13.2 per cent, though appreciably higher than the previous years 10.7 per cent was lower than the industry average of 16.4 per

cent. Mr. Susanta Niyogi, the chairman and managing director, attributes the limited growth in advances to the bank's strict compliance with the Reserve Bank's directive to observe a high degree of discipline in lending.

For the banking industry as a whole, growth rates in both deposits and advances were sharply lower than those of the previous year, which were 24.5 per cent and 20.7 per cent respectively.

Despite the lower growth rate in advances, United Bank earned a higher profit of

Rs 13.6m (\$1.74m) against Rs 11.27m in 1978.

There is now a Government directive to raise the proportion of advances to the priority sector (agriculture, small scale industry and business professional and self-employed people etc.) to 40 per cent from the present 33.33 per cent. The banks are allowed to charge only 10 to 12 per cent on these advances as against the full commercial rate of 16 to 18 per cent charged to business and industry. Bankers fear that their profitability will be affected.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

TQSA
Tarragona Química, S.A.

US\$15,000,000

Medium Term Loan

Guaranteed by

Unión Explosivos Rio Tinto, S.A.
Hoechst AG

Arranged by

Continental Illinois Limited

Provided by

Continental Illinois National Bank
and Trust Company of Chicago
— Madrid Branch —

Algemeine Bank Nederland N.V.

— Madrid Branch —

Banque de l'Indochine et de Suez

— Madrid Branch —

Die Erste Österreichische Spar-Casse

Agent

CONTINENTAL ILLINOIS LIMITED

May 1980

U.S.\$30,000,000
SUMITOMO HEAVY INDUSTRIES, LTD.
(Incorporated with limited liability in Japan)
Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes Due 1984



Unconditionally guaranteed as to payment of principal and interest by

THE SUMITOMO BANK, LIMITED
(Incorporated with limited liability in Japan)

In accordance with the provisions of the Notes and Agent Bank Agreement between Sumitomo Heavy Industries, Ltd., The Sumitomo Bank, Limited and Citibank, N.A., dated 5th September, 1979, notice is hereby given that the Rate of Interest for the Interest Period has been fixed at 9 1/4% p.a. and that the interest payable on the relevant Interest Payment Date, 13th September, 1980 against Coupon No. 4 in respect of U.S.\$25,000 nominal amount of the Notes will be U.S.\$602.95 and has been computed on the actual number of days elapsed (82) divided by 360.

13th June, 1980
By: Citibank, N.A., London,
Agent Bank

CITIBANK

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.



Gabinete da Area de Sines

US\$30,000,000

Medium Term Loan

Guaranteed by

Banco Pinto e Sotto Mayor

Managed by

Banco Pinto e Sotto Mayor

Chase Merchant Banking Group

Midland Bank Limited

Funds provided by

Midland Bank Limited

Banco Pinto e Sotto Mayor

Banco Totta & Acores
London Branch

Banque Bruxelles Lambert S.A.

The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.

International Energy Bank Limited

UBAF Bank Limited

Westfalenbank Aktiengesellschaft

Bank of New South Wales

The National Bank of Kuwait S.A.K.

Agent

Midland Bank Limited

June 6th, 1980

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

इंडियन एयरलाइन्स
Indian Airlines

U.S. \$30,000,000

Loan Facility

Guaranteed by

The Republic of India

Managed by

Midland Bank Limited

State Bank of India

Provided by

Midland Bank Limited

State Bank of India

The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.

Crédit Lyonnais
(Singapore)The National Commercial Bank
(Saudi Arabia)

Toronto Dominion Bank

UBAF Bank Limited

Agent

Midland Bank Limited



WORLD VALUE OF THE DOLLAR

Bank of America NT & SA, Economics Department, London

The table below gives the rates of exchange for the U.S. dollar against various currencies as of Wednesday, June 11, 1980. The exchange rates listed are the middle rates between buying and selling rates as quoted between banks, unless otherwise indicated. All currencies are quoted in foreign currency units per one U.S. dollar except in certain specified areas. All rates

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	VALUE OF DOLLAR	COUNTRY	CURRENCY	VALUE OF DOLLAR	COUNTRY	CURRENCY	VALUE OF DOLLAR
Afghanistan	Afghani (C)	44.00	Greenland	Danish Krone	5.4785	Paraguay	Guarani	0.27
Algeria	Dinar	4.3218	Guatemala	Quetzal	2.7025	Peru	Soles	137.50
Andorra	Spanish Peseta	66.925	Guinea	Leone	4.1105	Philippines	Phil. Peso	0.5415
Angola	Kwanza	20.480	Guinea-Bissau	Leone	1.00	Romania	Lei	270.25
Antigua	E. Caribbean \$	1.00	Honduras	Lempira	2.2218	Rwanda	Rwanda Franc	7.5036
Argentina	Argentine Peso	1683.00	Hong Kong	Dollar	1.00	S. Yemen	Dinar	1.0165
Australia	Australian \$	1.5374	Hungary	Forint (C)	2.5647	S. Korea	Won	31.00
Austria	Schilling	13.7603	Iceland	Krona	4.83	Spain	Peso	48.95
Azores	Portug. Escudo	48.95	India	Indian Rupee	35.5022	Switzerland	Swiss Franc	1.00
Bahamas	Bahamian \$	1.00	Indonesia	Rupiah	1,577.56	Taiwan	New Taiwan (C)	3.678
Bahrain	Dinar	4.7678	Iran	Rial	482.70	Thailand	Thai Baht	4.1105
Belize	E. Caribbean \$	1.00	Israel	Israeli Sheqel	7.5555	Togo	CFA Franc	4.77
Benin	C.F.A. Franc	205.525	Italy	Lira	2.036	Tanzania	Tanzanian Shilling	22.84
Bermuda	Bermudian \$	1.00	Jamaica	Jamaican Dollar	74.00	Trinidad & Tob.	Trinidad Dollar	6.75
Bolivia	Bolivian Peso	2.2218	Kenya	Kenya Shilling	0.0955	Tunisia	Tunisian Dinar	1.00
Botswana	Pula	0.791	Korea (Sth.)	Won	2.036	Turkey	Lira	1.80
Brazil	Cruzado	1.00	Kuwait	Kuwait Dinar	4.00	Uganda	Shilling	0.7761
Brunei	Brunei \$	1.00	Laos	Kip of Lib.	205.525	U.S.A.	Dollar	1.00
Burma	Kyat	6.7271	Lebanon	Lebanese Pound	1.50	Switzerland	Swiss Franc	1.00
Burundi	Burundi Franc	205.525	Libya	Libyan Dinar	0.34	Taiwan	New Taiwan (C)	3.678
Cameroon	C.F.A. Franc	205.525	Luxembourg	Lux Franc	40.00	Thailand	Thai Baht	4.1105
Canada	Canadian \$	1.3456	Madagascar	Malagasy Franc	2.036	Togo	CFA Franc	4.77
Central Am. Rep.	C.F.A. Franc	205.525	Malawi	Kwacha	0.0955	Trinidad & Tob.	Trinidad Dollar	6.75
Chad	C.F.A. Franc	205.525	Malaysia	Ringgit	2.036	Tunisia	Tunisian Dinar	1.00
Chile	Chilean Peso (C)	80.00	Maldives	Maldivian Rufiyaa	1.50	Turkey	Lira	1.80
China	Renminbi Yuan	1.4907	Mali	West African CFA Franc	205.525	Uganda	Shilling	0.7761
Colombia	Col. Peso (C)	205.525	Malta	Maltese Pound	0.4383	U.S.A.	Dollar	1.00
Congo (Brazzaville)	C.F.A. Franc	205.525	Mauritania	Ouguiya	4.1105	Switzerland	Swiss Franc	1.00
Congo (Kinshasa)	C.F.A. Franc	205.525	Mauritius	M. Rupee	2.036	Taiwan	New Taiwan (C)	3.678
Cuba	Cuban Peso	0.2036	Mexico	Mexican Peso	16.67	Thailand	Thai Baht	4.1105
Cyprus	Cyprus Pound	0.3529	Moldova	Leu	1.00	Togo	CFA Franc	4.77
Czechoslovakia	Koruna (C)	5.50	Mongolia	Tugrik (C)	2.036	Trinidad & Tob.	Trinidad Dollar	6.75
Dem. Rep. Congo	C.F.A. Franc	205.525	Montserrat	E. Caribbean \$	1.00	Tunisia	Tunisian Dinar	1.00
Dominican Rep.	Dominican \$	20.480	Mozambique	Moz. Escudo	20.480	Turkey	Lira	1.80
Dominican Rep.	Dominican \$	20.480	Namibia	Danish Krone	5.4785	Uganda	Shilling	0.7761
Dominican Rep.	Dominican \$	20.480	Nauru	Aust. \$	0.7761	U.S.A.	Dollar	1.00
Dominican Rep.	Dominican \$	20.480	Nepal	Nepalese Rupee	1.00	Switzerland	Swiss Franc	1.00
Dominican Rep.	Dominican \$	20.480	Netherlands	Dutch Guilder	1.00	Taiwan	New Taiwan (C)	3.678
Dominican Rep.	Dominican \$	20.480	Nicaragua	Cordoba	10.00	Thailand	Thai Baht	4.1105
Dominican Rep.	Dominican \$	20.480	Niger	C.F.A. Franc	205.525	Togo	CFA Franc	4.77
Dominican Rep.	Dominican \$	20.480	Nigeria	Naira (C)	1.00	Trinidad & Tob.	Trinidad Dollar	6.75
Dominican Rep.	Dominican \$	20.480	North Macedonia	Denar	1.00	Tunisia	Tunisian Dinar	1.00
Dominican Rep.	Dominican \$	20.480	Norway	Krone	4.77	Turkey	Lira	1.80
Dominican Rep.	Dominican \$	20.480	Oman	Rial Omani	0.3529	Uganda	Shilling	0.7761
Dominican Rep.	Dominican \$	20.480	Pakistan	Pak. Rupee	9.91	U.S.A.	Dollar	1.00
Dominican Rep.	Dominican \$	20.480	Panama	Balboa	1.00	Switzerland	Swiss Franc	1.00

n.s. Not available. * U.S. dollars per National Currency unit. (C) Official rate. (F) Financial rate.
(1) Sudan—Official rate for specified exports and imports. (2) Sudan—Official rate for all transactions except specified exports and imports.
(3) Egypt—A different rate applies to certain transactions with non-IMF countries.
(4) Israel Government are changing their currency to Sheqel. However dollars are currently quoting in pounds.
(5) Iranian Rial is now fixed at 92.3 per SDR effective 22/5/80. Mkt. rate 74.00.

Companies and Markets

\$ & £ soft

The dollar was slightly weaker in dull foreign exchange trading yesterday. Sterling had a generally softish undertone but finished unchanged at 73.7 on a trade-weighted basis, according to the Bank of England, after opening at 74.0 but declining to 73.7 at noon. There was no sustained selling of the pound, but the market lacked buying interest. Sterling fell quite sharply at one time in the morning, touching a low of \$2.3330-2.3340, after a peak of \$2.3460-2.3470. The reason for the fall appeared to centre on fears of a cut in Bank of England's Minimum Lending Rate which proved to be groundless, but the general lack of buying probably reflects expectations of a cut in MLR in the near future. The pound quickly recovered however, closed at \$2.3380-2.3400, a rise of 50 points on the day.

Further cuts in U.S. banks prime lending rates depressed the dollar. The U.S. currency's trade-weighted index, as calculated by the Bank of England, fell to 83.3 from 83.4.

The dollar fell to DM 1.7825 from DM 1.7845 against the D-mark, to Bfr 1.6250 from Bfr 1.6285 against the Swiss franc, and to Y216.75 from Y217.50 in terms of the Japanese yen.

D-MARK—Showing renewed strength against the dollar and steady within the European Monetary System, following firmer rates in Frankfurt, and lower U.S. interest rates. The D-mark lost ground against most major currencies at the Frankfurt fixing, although the Swiss franc eased to DM 1.0830 from DM 1.0862. The dollar rose to DM 1.7845 from DM 1.7825 on day intervention by the Bundesbank at the fixing or on the open market. Sterling improved to DM 1.4240 from DM 1.4190, but eased slightly from the early morning level of DM 1.4330. Within the EMS the

French franc rose to DM 42.9250 per 100 francs from DM 42.90; the Dutch guilder to DM 91.18 per 100 guilders from DM 91.13; the Belgian franc to DM 6.2470 from DM 6.2430; and the Italian lira to DM 2.1130 per 1,000 lire from DM 2.1170.

ITALIAN LIRA—Weakest member of EMS, after rising to the top of the system in February, and remaining firm for most of last year. The lira was firmer against other members of the EMS at the Milan fixing, but declined against the dollar and sterling. The D-mark was fixed at L47.23 compared with L47.24; the French franc at L202.74 compared with L202.74; the Danish krone at L151.77 against L152.00; and the Dutch guilder at L430.44 against L430.48. Outside the EMS the dollar rose to L333.05 from L332.80 and sterling to L1.947.30 from L1.946.50, but the Swiss franc fell to L510.80 from L513.02.

BEELIAN FRANC—Remaining firm within EMS despite easing of interest rates by Belgian authorities. The Belgian franc improved against the dollar, sterling, Swiss franc and members of the EMS at the Brussels fixing. The dollar fell to Bfr 1.6250 from Bfr 1.6285; sterling to Bfr 66.1350 from Bfr 66.1350; the Swiss franc to Bfr 17.2450 from Bfr 17.2490. The D-mark fell to Bfr 18.01525 from Bfr 18.01525; the French franc to Bfr 6.8750 from Bfr 6.8750.

YEN—Energy and balance of payments problems reflected in sharp decline last year. More recently lower U.S. interest rates have helped the yen recover. Fears of political instability following the death of the Japanese Prime Minister depressed the yen in heavy foreign exchange trading. The dollar rose to Y216.75 from Y217.50, after opening at Y218.50.

EMS EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT RATES

	ECU central rates	Currency amounts against ECU June 12	% change from central rate	% change adjusted for divergence	Divergence limit %
Belgian Franc ...	39.462	40.261	+1.14	+0.55	-1.53
Danish Krone ...	7.0822	7.1828	+1.21	+0.62	-1.635
German D-Mark ...	2.51064	2.51379	+1.28	+0.68	-1.325
French Franc ...	5.78231	5.85888	+0.77	-0.42	-1.35
Dutch Guilder ...	2.72377	2.75994	+1.32	+0.67	-1.5075
Irish Punt ...	0.78668	0.79228	+1.05	+0.46	-1.665
Italian Lira ...	1148.15	1155.38	+2.42	+2.34	-1.0725

*Change vs. old ECU

Changes are for ECU, therefore positive change denotes a weak currency. Adjustment calculated by Financial Times.

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

June 12	Pound Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Deutsche Mark	Japanese Yen	French Franc	Swiss Franc	Dutch Guilder	Italian Lira	Canada Dollar	Belgian Franc
Pound Sterling	1	2.340	4.125	307.0	6.518	3.303	1.928	1.494	2.687	65.10
U.S. Dollar	0.427	1	1.765	136.7	4.111	1.625	1.986	63.3	1.148	28.25
Deutsche Mark	0.242	0.567	1	122.9	2.533	0.929	1.098	47.4	0.651	16.09
Japanese Yen	1.972	4.614	8.136	1000	18.97	7.500	8.930	204.5	2.599	150.4
French Franc	0.140	0.243	0.429	527.2	10	5.854	4.708	203.5	2.793	68.72
Swiss Franc	0.365	0.615	1.085	185.3	2.588	1	1.181	51.4	0.707	17.38
Dutch Guilder	0.281	0.517	0.913	113.0	3.124	0.940	1	45.0	0.565	14.60
Italian Lira	0.513	1.201	2.117	260.8	4.936	1.952	2.324	1000	1.279	33.92
Canada Dollar	0.372	0.871	1.535	188.7	3.580	1.415	1.685	72.5	1	24.60
Belgian Franc	1.513	3.559	6.241	767.0	14.35	5.765	6.849	204.8	4.064	100

FT LONDON INTERBANK FIXING (11.00 a.m. JUNE 12)

3 month U.S. dollars		6 month U.S. dollars		The fixing rates are the arithmetic means, rounded to the nearest one-sixteenth, of the bid and offered rates for \$10m quoted by the market to five reference banks at 11 am each working day. The banks are National Westminster Bank, Bank of Tokyo, Deutsche Bank, Banque Nationale de Paris, and Morgan Guaranty Trust.
bid 9 1/16	offer 9 3/16	bid 9 1/4	offer 9 1/4	

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES (Market Closing Rates)

June 12	Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Canadian Dollar	Dutch Guilder	Swiss Franc	West German Mark	French Franc	Italian Lira	Asian \$	Japanese Yen
Short term	17 1/4-17 3/4	8 1/4-8 3/4	13 1/4-13 3/4	11 1/4-11 3/4	5 1/4-5 3/4	8 1/4-8 3/4	12 1/4-12 3/4	14 1/4-14 3/4	8 1/4-8 3/4	14 1/4-14 3/4
7 days' notice	18 1/4-18 3/4	9 1/4-9 3/4	14 1/4-14 3/4	12 1/4-12 3/4	6 1/4-6 3/4	9 1/4-9 3/4	13 1/4-13 3/4	15 1/4-15 3/4	9 1/4-9 3/4	15 1/4-15 3/4
Month	17 1/4-17 3/4	8 1/4-8 3/4	13 1/4-13 3/4	10 1/4-10 3/4	5 1/4-5 3/4	8 1/4-8 3/4	12 1/4-12 3/4	14 1/4-14 3/4	8 1/4-8 3/4	14 1/4-14 3/4
Three months	15 1/4-15 3/4	7 1/4-7 3/4	11 1/4-11 3/4	9 1/4-9 3/4	4 1/4-4 3/4	7 1/4-7 3/4	11 1/4-11 3/4	13 1/4-13 3/4	7 1/4-7 3/4	13 1/4-13 3/4
Six months	15 1/4-15 3/4	7 1/4-7 3/4	10 1/4-10 3/4	8 1/4-8 3/4	3 1/4-3 3/4	6 1/4-6 3/4	10 1/4-10 3/4	12 1/4-12 3/4	6 1/4-6 3/4	12 1/4-12 3/4
One year	14 1/4-14 3/4	6 1/4-6 3/4	9 1/4-9 3/4	7 1/4-7 3/4	2 1/4-2 3/4	5 1/4-5 3/4	9 1/4-9 3/4	11 1/4-11 3/4	5 1/4-5 3/4	11 1/4-11 3/4

The following nominal rates were quoted for London dollar certificates of deposit: one-month 8.00-8.70 per cent; three-months 8.55-8.75 per cent; six-months 8.65-8.75 per cent; one year 8.75-8.85 per cent.
Long-term Eurodollar two years 10 1/4-10 3/4 per cent; three years 10 1/4-10 3/4 per cent; four years 10 1/4-10 3/4 per cent; five years 10 1/4-10 3/4 per cent; nominal closing rates.
Short-term rates are call for sterling, U.S. dollars, Canadian dollars and Japanese yen; others two-days' notice. Asian rates are closing rates in Singapore.

INTERNATIONAL MONEY MARKET

Europe rates steady

Interest rates showed little overall change in Europe yesterday, with Paris call money unchanged at 12 1/2 per cent and Frankfurt call money quoted at 9.70 per cent, against 9.95 per cent on Wednesday. In Denmark the Central Bank increased the ceiling on bank advances for commercial and savings banks to Dkr 128.75bn, a rise of 2 per cent, with the rise reflecting the increased credit demand. Banks are required to pay a penalty as their credit ceilings are breached, in the form of non-interest bearing deposits with the Central Bank. Call money rates were increased in December, 1979.

In Paris the Bank of France bought Yfr 2bn of first category paper from the market yesterday at an unchanged rate of 12 1/2 per cent, with maturities dates between June 21-25. In order to meet market requirements for further credit, the Bank has offered to buy paper with maturity dates between June 26 and June 30.

In Amsterdam interbank money money rates were slightly easier in places. While call money remained at 11 1/2 per cent, one month money was easier at 10 1/2 per cent, against 11 per cent and the three-month rate eased to 10 1/4 per cent from 10 1/2 per cent. In Singapore, Algemeine Bank Nederland reduced its prime rate to 11 1/2 per cent from 12 1/2 per cent in line with a general easing of interbank rates.

UK MONEY MARKET

Very large help

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 17 per cent (since November 15, 1979).
The unwinding of a \$500m sale and repurchase agreement was the main factor behind yesterday's shortage of funds in the London money market, and the authorities gave assistance by buying a large number of Treasury bills and a small amount of local authority bills, both from banks and discount houses. Total help was termed as very large. The market was also faced with a small net take up of Treasury bills to finance and a small number of local authority bills maturing in official hands.
Discount houses were paying up to 18 1/2 per cent for secured call loans at the start with later

LONDON MONEY RATES

NEW YORK	June 12 1980	Sterling Certificate of deposit	Interbank	Local Authority deposits	Local Authority bonds	Finance House deposits	Company deposits	Discount market	Treasury bills	Eligible bills	Prime
Prime Rate	12-13	—	15 1/4-17 1/4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fed. Funds	8-9	—	—	16 1/4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Treasury Bills (28-week)	8-9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Discount Rate	7.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Overnight Rate	8.75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
One month	9.75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Three months	10.25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Six months	9.85	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Local authority and finance houses seven days' notice, others seven days' fixed. *Long-term local authority discount rates nominally three years 14 1/4 per cent; four years 14 per cent; five years 14 per cent. *Bank bill rates 10 days are as follows: buying rates for one-month Treasury bills 15 1/4-15 3/4 per cent; two-month Treasury bills 15 1/4-15 3/4 per cent; three-month Treasury bills 15 1/4-15 3/4 per cent; four-month Treasury bills 15 1/4-15 3/4 per cent; five-month Treasury bills 15 1/4-15 3/4 per cent; six-month Treasury bills 15 1/4-15 3/4 per cent; seven-month Treasury bills 15 1/4-15 3/4 per cent; eight-month Treasury bills 15 1/4-15 3/4 per cent; nine-month Treasury bills 15 1/4-15 3/4 per cent; ten-month Treasury bills 15 1/4-15 3/4 per cent; eleven-month Treasury bills 15 1/4-15 3/4 per cent; twelve-month Treasury bills 15 1/4-15 3/4 per cent.

Clearing Bank Deposit Rates (published by the Finance Houses Association) 17 1/2 per cent from June 1, 1980. Treasury Bills: Average tender rates at seven days' notice 15.5000 per cent. Clearing Bank Rates for lending 17 1/2 per cent.

CURRENCIES, MONEY and GOLD

THE POUND SPOT AND FORWARD

	Day's spread	Close	One month	% Three months
June 12				
U.S.	2.3380-2.3470	2.3380-2.3400	1.72-1.62¢ pm	8.57-8.45-4.3¢ pm
Canada	2.0850-2.0900	2.0850-2.0870	1.12-1.03¢ pm	8.22-8.22-2.2¢ pm
Netherlands	4.57-4.58	4.57-4.58	3-2¢ pm	8.43-74-4¢ pm
Belgium	65.95-66.40	65.95-66.40	15-15 1/2	8.25-8.25-1.5¢ pm
Denmark	12.81-12.87	12.83-12.84	1-3/4¢ die	1.53-8-8-1/2 die
Ireland	1.090-1.110	1.105-1.105	0.03¢-0.02¢ pm	0.11-0.20-0.15 pm
W. Ger.	4.15-4.15 1/2	4.15-4.15 1/2	3-2 1/2¢ pm	8.00-8-8-1/2¢ pm
Portugal	113.00-115.00	113-114.35	70-70 die	1.05
Spain	163.50-164.25	163.50-164.00	5¢ pm-50¢ pm	0.66-10¢-10¢ die
Italy	194.00-194.25	194.00-194	14¢ pm-14¢ die	1.02-75-3¢ die
Norway	11.32-11.37	11.33-11.34	10-10 1/2¢ pm	5.00-5-5-1/2¢ pm
Sweden	9.77-9.77 1/2	9.74-9.73	4-3 1/2¢ pm	5.30-5-5-1/2¢ pm
Switzerland	506-507	506-507	35-25¢ pm	5.00-5-5-1/2¢ pm
Austria	27.25-27.35	27.25-27.30	20-19¢ pm	7.05-52-4¢ pm
Spain	3.77-3.77 1/2	3.74-3.70	2-1 1/2¢ pm	5.27-10-9¢ pm

Companies and Markets

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Early profit-taking on Wall St.

AFTER MODESTLY extending

Wednesday's advance, Wall Street turned easier on profit-taking to leave prices lower for choice on balance at mid-session.

Trading was extremely active. The Dow Jones Industrial Average, 2.73 higher at 11 am, was a net 3.67 down at 869.03 at 1 pm. The NYSE All Common Index lost 44 cents to \$65.73, while falls led gains by a four-to-three ratio at mid-session. Turnover increased to 35.11 million shares on Wednesday's 1 pm level of 30.83m.

Analysts said investors were taking profits after the market's long advance, especially in Oils, which have risen sharply this week.

They also noted some disappointment that Citicorp's loss cut its price ratio to 121 per cent from 130 per cent even though First Boston cut its rate to 12 per cent on Wednesday.

However, they said the prime cause of much lower prices on Wall Street was the news that the Citicorp move, followed by some others, was probably not too significant.

Among Oils, active Exxon lost 1 1/2 to \$67 1/2, Standard Oil of California 1 1/2 to \$78 1/2 and Occidental Petroleum shed 1 1/2 to \$267 1/2. Superior Oil 2 1/2 to \$101 1/2 and Standard Oil (Indiana) 1 1/2 to \$58.

Food Motor declined 1/2 to \$23 1/2. It faces a possible record loss of 16m cents and is being sold for alleged transmission defects. Active General Motors, however, put on 1/2 to \$46 1/2.

Gaming shares advanced. Sells Manufacturing rose 1 1/2 to \$24 1/2, Caesars World 1 1/2 to \$31 1/2. Playboy SE Market Value Index retreated 2.89 to 286.03 at 1 pm. Value 3.82m shares (3.93m).

Closing prices for North America were not available for this edition.

Canada

Shares tended to improve further yesterday morning although trading was much quieter. The Toronto Composite Index added 9.0 to 2,049.2 at midday. Golds put on 29.6 to 2,638.0, Oil and Gas 10.1 to 4,965.0 and Banks 1.57 to 361.33.

Hong Kong

Responding to Wednesday's further downward move in U.S. Prime Rate and also a softening of local interbank rates, Hong Kong shares advanced sharply over a wide front yesterday in very heavy dealings.

The Hang Seng Index

The Hang Seng index at lunch time, broke through its 1973 high of 963.17, reached on February 15 this year. Dealers said this was a critical technical point. The market continued to surge ahead in hectic afternoon trading, in which volume exceeded HK\$25m in one hour, taking the index to a closing level of 971.30, up 19.31 on the day. Turnover on the Hong Kong S.E. expanded to HK\$7.15m.

Chung King rose 30 cents to HK\$14.40, Hong Kong Bank 20 cents to HK\$15.60, Hong Kong Land 30 cents to HK\$11.90. Jardine Matheson 40 cents to HK\$15.50 and Hongkong Wharf 30 cents to HK\$15.50.

Whampoa, which declared an increased interim dividend on its Preference stock, put on 20 cents to HK\$8.60.

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Tokyo

The market fell sharply in early trading on news of Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira's death. However, trading was only moderate and shares recovered a good deal late in the session, with some speculation and blue chips putting net gains on market thoughts that his death might not seriously affect the domestic economy.

The Nikkei-Dow Jones Average, which had fallen 59.58 by the morning close, later rallied to 2,139.39 down on balance at 6,814.73. The Tokyo SE index was a net 0.57 off at 455.95, while declines outnumbered gains at the close by 347 to 257 on the First Market section after volume of 240m shares (270m).

Oils remained out of favour, with Nippon Oil losing Y80 to Y1,930, Tokai Oil Y40 to Y1,910, Aramco Oil Y30 to Y1,910 and Teo Nanyang Y12 to Y880. Mitsubishi added Y8 to Y665 in Trading Houses, but Mitsui gained Y3 to Y555.

Among the subsequently firmer Blue Chips were some high-priced Light Electricals. Matsushita Electric added Y7 to Y6,067, Nippon Victor Y40 to Y1,930 and Government Communications Y20 to Y1,620.

Yamaha Motor rose Y20 to Y880, Olympus Y11 to Y830 and Sanyo Y19 to Y280.

After the recent setback on overseas interest, renewed overseas interest yesterday, but lower overnight metal prices and reports of a world oil glut prevented a full-scale rally.

Gold leaders were generally weaker in line with the Bullion price, with Central Norwegian receding 35 cents fore to A\$8.40. However, among the smaller

speculators, the three partners in the north Queensland Bimurra gold prospect forged ahead in active trading on news that a firm-in arrangement had been negotiated with Esso. Samantha Exploration jumped 55 cents to A\$2.75, Samsen 25 cents to A\$1.75 and Baka Minerals 15 cents to 50 cents.

Among Mining Heavyweights attracting renewed support, Baulmin Tin rose 30 cents to A\$18.20, Pancontinental 30 cents to A\$7.00 and Bougainville 10 cents to A\$2.50.

Oils picked up well initially, but ended generally easier on balance on fresh profit-taking. Industrials put on a firmer performance. News featuring with an advance of 55 cents to A\$2.80 in response to the reorganisation proposals which would give the company full control of the London-based News International.

With sentiment aided by the overnight Wall Street rise and a firm Domestic Bond market, Futures mainly improved in trading. The Commerzbank Index gained 5.3 to 708.5.

A report from Karstadt of lower 1979 profits and its outlook for stagnant German private consumer demand stored down initially, but most ended higher on the day. Karstadt were finally only DM 0.20 down at DM 230.00.

Domestic Bond prices gained about 40 pence as the new Federal Government bond came to the secondary market at the issue price of DM 100.25. The Bundesbank sold a net DM 24.7m of paper after DM 4.1m sales on Wednesday.

Johannesburg Gold shares finished mixed with an easier bias after moderate activity. General Mining featured in Mining Financials with a 200 cents rise to R24.50 following news that its Brixton subsidiary plans to open a new gold mine. De Beers, in contrast, shed 10 cents to R10.50.

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NEW YORK

Stock

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NEW YORK

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June 11

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June 7

June 6

AN AMERICAN scientist once told his company president how he had solved the problem of making artificial leather, at a cost of several hundred million dollars. "You haven't solved it," said his chief. Even so, they both failed to allow for the fickleness of fashion. Women went for big holes in their shoes and no longer needed the pores science had painstakingly simulated.

That story illustrates two of the features of industrial research—cost and the unpredictability of public response to innovation—that frighten research directors and their chairmen today. There are others, notably some unforeseen facet of the new product or its manufacturing process that the public perceives as a threat to its health, safety or employment prospects.

These pitfalls seem daunting enough to make timid men of the most innovative research directors. But this is not so, as became clear at a recent meeting in Munich of the men responsible for innovation in more than 100 of Europe's research-based companies. One conclusion must be that industrial scientists are not an "endangered species," as for example the Royal Society in Britain is inclined to see them. Another must be that they are proving just as innovative in adapting to the new pressures that society is thrusting upon them.

The European Industrial Research Association (EIRMA) is a club of companies that firmly believe they can survive only by continuing to innovate. It includes companies with annual research and development budgets of hundreds of millions of pounds: Siemens, Philips, ICI, Shell, Hoechst, etc. It claims to represent two-thirds or more of Europe's research-based industry; although there are some conspicuous absentees such as Hoffmann-La Roche, the world's biggest spender on drug research.

EIRMA members are trying

to reconcile the demands of three sectors whose perception of innovation may be differently different. These three are their own boards of management, their governments, and the public generally.

To take one example: a truly innovative drug such as Tagamet



Dr. Jurg Rutschmann, the "conscience" of Sandoz

met, a cure for peptic ulcers discovered by Smith, Kline and French in a UK laboratory, can generate tremendous pressures within an industry. Tagamet was introduced in 1976. In 1979 it added over £200m to SKF's turnover. The U.S. investment market coined the term "tagamania" to describe the feverish search for the next "breakthrough" which would transform the balance sheet of a drug company. Research directors have come under great pressure to adopt more widely

David Fishlock reports on how Europe's scientists are tackling society's new problems

The risks and rewards of research

the new approach which led to Tagamet's discovery.

But the public attitude towards innovation is less predictable. People seem genuinely excited and stimulated by innovation and discovery. They do not even recognise that there are certain natural limits. As Dr. Jurg Rutschmann of Sandoz says cynically: "95 per cent of people want to believe in perpetual motion."

As the EEC has discovered, people are rather indifferent to innovation in demonstrably dangerous areas of public activity such as road transport; and, as ICI has found, they are dismissive of some efforts to reduce the risks of smoking. Yet public opinion can apparently be roused to fury by levels of risk so slight as to require the exposure of the whole population before any problem begins to appear. Critics of nuclear energy have tried desperately to show that it must be harming someone, somewhere.

Dr. Hans Haunschild, permanent secretary responsible for German government research and technology, admitted in Munich that he had no answer for "the minority with an uncompromisingly negative attitude towards technology and industrialised society." But he urged the research chiefs to be ready and willing to speak freely about the "negative side" of any new development. Industry would thereby enhance its credibility.

The research chiefs could learn a lot from Germany's experience of public reaction to nuclear energy. Innovation was not enough, said Dr. Haunschild. The German public had also to be assured that the invention would save energy and improve the environment.

This month the West German

Government is applying its experience of public reaction to nuclear innovation in the late 1970s to micro-electronics. By deliberately fostering a public debate on the benefits and risks of silicon chips, it hopes to avoid the damaging hold-ups which have been impeding German nuclear construction. Its aim is to focus public attention from the start on what the Government perceives as real risks, and try to prevent it from being misled by what Dr.

productivity with new technology it should increase unemployment.

For those who believe governments can solve industry's problems—for example, with cash—the views of Dr. Bernhard Schmidt, a director of Dornier and president-elect of EIRMA, are refreshingly blunt. Government projects in innovation will work only when they support industry's own initiatives, not the initiatives of politicians or civil servants, he

Six of the biggest European motor companies have just agreed to work together on long-term research

Haunschild calls "fabricated problems."

These are problems raised by those whose "intensity of participation is inversely proportional to their knowledge of the subject," says Dr. A. E. Pannenberg, vice-chairman of Philips, the Dutch electronics group. Philips is confident enough of public enthusiasm for innovation to feature research prominently in its TV advertising. Dr. Pannenberg believes that for industrial science a big change took place during the 1970s, with professional pride in innovation reasserting itself, after a period of preoccupation with environment.

Industry has grasped the message that it must either innovate or wither away. But neither the public nor politicians have grasped it yet. Dr. Pannenberg refers wryly to the Dutch Prime Minister who had urged his industry not to invest, lest in improving

says. He also rejects totally suggestions from the German trade union movement that companies should get together at an early stage of innovation to debate the possible consequences of success. Technological assessments "always set it wrong."

Dr. Schmidt runs Dornier System, a high-technology company with 3,500 engineers and scientists, a turnover of £250m and an R and D budget of £100m. Only one-eighth of this budget, is company cash, however, for such ideas as a highly promising new way of disintegrating kidney stones with an electric spark. The rest comes from contracts, mostly from government; much of it for projects in energy, the biggest single sector of German Government spending on R and D.

He takes a sharply cynical view, however, of the prospects for some of the energy projects placed with Dornier by his

Government. Solar projects, for example, can do no more than briefly postpone the real energy problem, because the solutions are proving so energy-intensive to set up. Hydrogen as a novel fuel would require an immense investment in a new infrastructure for manufacture, transmission and distribution, and would raise big new risks in use.

Where Dr. Schmidt believes that governments could be of considerable assistance to innovation is in reaching international agreement on its use. In transport for example, he finds it incredible that Europe has no advanced railway project designed to cross frontiers as freely as airline operations.

Private companies are pioneering collaboration in one key area of innovation in transport. At the initiative of Professor Umberto Businaro, managing director of research for Fiat, six of the biggest European motor companies have just agreed to work together on long-term research problems which could have a big influence on the performance of cars—especially their fuel consumption—in the 1990s. Examples are much more fundamental studies of combustion in the internal combustion engine, and of vehicle aerodynamics.

The aim would be to develop new research techniques for examining such problems, which each company would then apply as it sees fit. Professor Businaro sees no reason why collaboration should not also extend to manufacturing technology.

Fiat claims the biggest motor industry research effort in Europe, on a par with Ford in

the U.S., with 1,000 qualified people employed at its Turin laboratories. Of its partners, Volvo and Volkswagen also have substantial resources; and Renault, Peugeot and British Leyland are all re-organising their R and D into a stronger base. Professor Businaro ex-



Dr. A. E. Pannenberg: Philips boosts its research

pects his "club" to have four or five collaborative research projects launched before the end of this year.

The pharmaceutical industry has grown strong from basic research of the kind this club is considering for cars. No industry is more alive to the risks as well as the rewards of research. Roche discovered the tranquilliser Librium more by happy accident than planned research in the 1950s and has reinvested heavily in basic

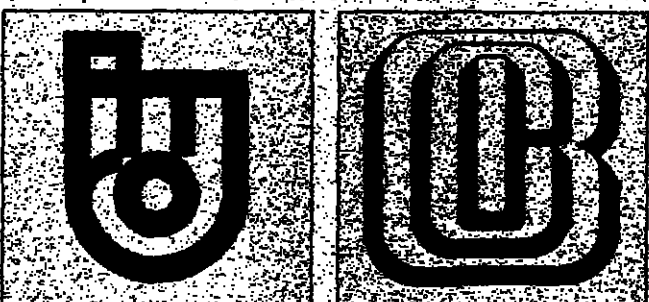
drugs research to become the world's biggest spender in the field. Yet it has failed to produce another big success.

In the 1970s it incurred public wrath, first for maintaining what was seen as a high price for its tranquillisers, and then for the accident at Seveso, when a deadly poison leaked from one of its plants.

Sandoz, another of the three big Swiss pharmaceutical groups, aroused public anger after Seveso when a product was found to be contaminated with traces of a poison made—like the dioxin released at Seveso—in the course of manufacture. The experience convinced the chairman of Sandoz that he needed a man on his board responsible for three interlocking areas of company activity: product safety (toxicity), safety of its own workpeople, and its impact upon the environment. Roche and Ciba-Geigy have recently made similar appointments and the three directors have formed an informal "club," meeting regularly to exchange problems. All three companies spend heavily on drug R and D—Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz about 11 per cent of the turnover of their pharmaceutical businesses, Roche as much as 15 per cent.

The Sandoz safety expert is Dr. Jurg Rutschmann, its director of chemical and pharmaceutical research for 15 years. The qualifications for "an intimate knowledge of all the technologies involved and an intimate knowledge of how the company functions." His job is continuously to audit corporate health and safety practice, reporting not to the board but to the chairman himself. His role—a conscience of the company—is not one calculated to make him popular with many of his fellow directors, as he admits. But Dr. Rutschmann finds that it is exploiting everything he has ever learned in a lifelong career with Sandoz which began with work on its wartime discovery of LSD.

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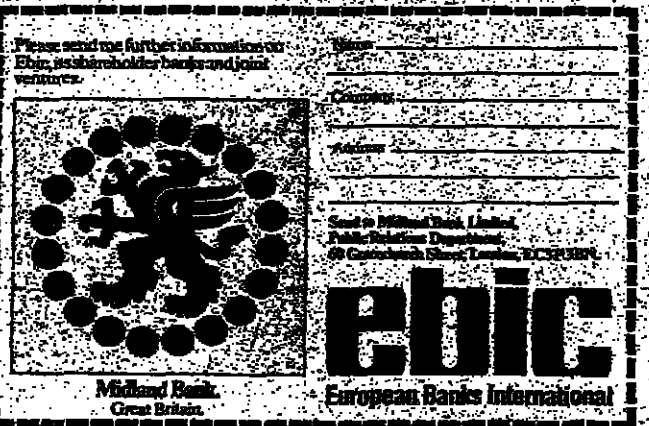
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NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of

Honda Motor Co., Ltd.

7½% Guaranteed Sinking Fund Debentures Due 1981

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that One Million Three Hundred Thirty Three Thousand Dollars (\$1,333,000) principal amount of Honda Motor Co., Ltd. 7½% Guaranteed Sinking Fund Debentures Due 1981 and bearing the following serial numbers, have been drawn for redemption for account of the Sinking Fund on July 15, 1980 at the principal amount thereof and accrued interest to that date.

DEBENTURES IN DENOMINATION OF \$1,000. EACH

29	1307	2770	4050	5434	6701	8174	10050	11889	13246	14388	15612	16499	17321	18299	19308
35	1335	2792	4063	5448	6717	8194	10064	11903	13255	14419	15624	16509	17330	18304	19314
41	1409	2802	4073	5458	6725	8206	10068	11756	13268	14434	15655	16559	17339	18307	19315
47	1516	2823	4085	5470	6736	8215	10078	11903	13275	14445	15668	16572	17349	18316	19322
54	1590	2850	4099	5473	6744	8217	10081	11782	13271	14445	15662	16540	17333	18344	19321
61	1628	2872	4104	5480	6757	8220	10084	11716	13286	14446	15676	16561	17360	18333	19327
68	1652	2880	4117	5483	6759	8228	10081	11716	13286	14446	15676	16561	17360	18333	19327
75	1650	2887	4124	5501	6764	8239	10082	11783	13282	14448	15680	16674	17338	18337	19327
82	1678	2898	4134	5512	6765	8246	10085	11725	13284	14450	15685	16683	17395	18373	19338
89	1685	2923	4144	5525	6777	8251	10089	11783	13287	14451	15686	16684	17396	18374	19339
96	1688	2925	4150	5543	6794	8265	10091	11831	13285	14454	15694	16714	16701	17348	19338
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110	1690	2931	4155	5554	6816	8272	10093	11745	13284	14453	15693	16707	17453	18406	19338
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152	1690	2931	4155	5554	6816	8272	10093	11745	13284	14453	15693	16707	17453	18406	19338
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166	1690	2931	4155	5554	6816	8272	10093	11745	13284	14453	15693	16707	17453	18406	19338
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327	1690	2931	4155	5554	6816	8272	10093	11745	13284	14453	15693	16707	17453	18406	19338
334	1690	2931	4155	5554	6816	8272	10093	11745	13284	14453	15693	16707	17453	18406	19338
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FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

Friday June 13 1980

Energy for Industry

Savings hitting the mark

By Ray Dafter
Energy Editor

INDUSTRY AND commerce have found themselves trapped uncomfortably between economic recession and inflation, both of which have been aggravated by big increases in energy costs over the past 18 months.

But there is some consolation. For the time being supply uncertainties have abated. There are more than adequate supplies of the various fuels to meet dampened demand for the rest of this year and next winter.

How long this state of affairs will last is anyone's guess. Energy—particularly oil—has become a political instrument as well as an economic commodity. A disruption in supplies from one of the major oil producers could trigger another crisis similar to those that occurred in 1973-74 and 1978-79. By reducing their dependence on oil major energy-consuming countries can do much to lessen the impact of such a crisis when and if it occurs.

The International Energy Agency, representing virtually all of the West's main industrialised countries, recognised this in the action taken at its last ministerial meeting on May 22. Ministers agreed to implement national energy policies that would enable IEA countries to "substantially under-shoot" the existing 1985 group target for oil imports—

26.2m barrels a day including bunkers. The IEA's secretariat estimates that concerted action could lead to imports falling around 4m b/d short of that target.

Further, the IEA has agreed to reduce the share of oil in the total energy demand to about 40 per cent by 1980, as against around 52 per cent now. The ratio of energy growth to economic growth is expected to be brought down to about 0.6:1. This is in sharp contrast to the trend before 1973 when energy consumption was growing at a faster rate than the world's economic activity.

Reporting to Parliament on these objectives earlier this month, Mr. David Howell, Energy Secretary, commented: "Implementation will require courageous and sometimes unpopular action from all member governments."

Burden

It seems inevitable that industry will be called upon to carry much of the burden of energy policies designed to fulfill IEA's commitments. Industry is the biggest single user of energy—ahead of the domestic and transport sectors. It has probably the greatest economic incentive to change its energy consumption patterns. With fuel prices rising so rapidly, a conservation-minded company is finding that it can be much more competitive than a company which still uses fuel in a profligate manner.

The U.S. is often described as the greediest energy consumer in the world, but its industries—like its motorists—have begun to be more conservation-minded. This was a point taken up by Mr. Edward Jefferson, president of one of the biggest U.S. chemical groups, E.I. du Pont de Nemours, when he spoke at a London meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce last month.

In the early to mid-1970s operators of industrial plants voluntarily agreed to reduce energy use by 10 to 30 per cent, he said. The target date was early 1980. "While the data is

Uncertainties over energy supply have abated and the present lower demand should be met for the next year without difficulty. The industrialised West has recognised its over-dependence on oil and set lower import levels. Considerable energy savings are being achieved in industry by adopting conservation measures.

not all in, it appears that most industries met the mark," Mr. Jefferson stated. Du Pont had reduced its energy consumption per unit of output by 25 per cent as against a 1972 base level. By the end of 1980 Du Pont intended to bring consumption down by 38 per cent.

"We are convinced that energy savings at these levels are possible in many companies and industries, and that it is still true that the least expensive barrel of oil you can buy is the one labelled 'conservation,'" Mr. Jefferson added.

"A recent study by the Union of Concerned Scientists has shown that improvements in energy efficiency in the U.S. saved the equivalent of 1.3bn barrels of oil between 1973 and 1978—about five months' worth of oil imports at present levels.

There is a problem for those analysing such figures, however.

They can never be certain whether reduced consumption is due to depressed economic activity, a reaction to higher prices (a type of conservation measure), or the result of deliberate energy-saving action.

It is reckoned that within industry "good housekeeping" requiring no or very little investment can reduce fuel consumption by at least 10 per cent—much more in very many cases. By investing in proven technology companies should be able to improve energy efficiency by at least 30 per cent.

These are the sort of challenges now facing a new breed of industrial and commercial executive—the energy manager. Within the UK it is estimated that there are now more than 5,000 energy managers, many of them very close to the top of their organisation's management structure.

Another reason why energy

conservation is difficult to prove and isolate stems from the decision-making processes within industry. The Royal Dutch/Shell Group, in its "Energy Efficiency" publication last year, gave a typical reaction sequence for industry:

● Companies could take one or two years to analyse future energy pricing trends.
● A further one to three years might be spent analysing regulation standards and the choice of conservation options.
● The ordering and construction period might last a further one to three years.

Thus, it could be three to eight years after the first pricing signals are read that new conservation equipment is installed, and switched on. As Shell says: "Much could be in the pipeline that has yet to show up in statistics."

Mr. John Moore, Junior Energy Minister with special responsibility for energy con-

servation, believes that industry expended its greatest fuel-saving effort in the period from 1974 to 1976 when rising prices were having a major impact. He doubted whether a great deal of savings were achieved in 1977 and 1978 when fuel prices were dropping in real terms. But the situation has changed again in the light of post-Iranian price increases which occurred last year and have continued apace to the present.

North Sea oil was priced at around \$14 a barrel at year-end 1978. Today it costs more than \$38 a barrel. The Government has encouraged North Sea operators to follow the world pricing trend. It has steadily avoided giving its industrialists a helping hand by keeping down domestic oil prices. Indeed, the Government has encouraged the British Gas Corporation to raise its prices to a level more in line with those for oil products.

There is no doubt that the pricing mechanism works; realistic pricing encourages conservation," Mr. Moore said. Higher prices together with an increased information programme are the twin pillars supporting the present Government's conservation policies.

Mr. Moore and his colleagues have taken considerable satisfaction from the most recent statistics emanating from the Department of Energy. A new fuel price-index, published in the latest issue of the Department's "Energy Trends," shows that last year the price of industrial fuels rose by 17 per cent as against a 10 per cent rise in wholesale price index (excluding crude oil and carbonising coal).

In the last quarter the increase was 30 per cent over the corresponding period of 1978—a rise which was three

times faster than the wholesale price index. During the quarter heavy fuel prices rose no less than 52 per cent.

Accordingly, prices were reflected in consumption. Industrial energy consumption (excluding the iron and steel sectors) rose by just 2.9 per cent during the year as a whole. However, fourth-quarter consumption was down 0.9 per cent against the corresponding period of 1978. Oil demand in the quarter dropped 8.3 per cent.

And the trend has continued into this year. Total deliveries of oil products fell by 14.6 per cent, or 3.5m tonnes, in the first quarter compared with a year ago. About 1.6m tonnes of this may be attributed to reduced supplies to power stations, which have been increasing their coal burn, but even after accounting for this the reduction in all other deliveries amounted to 9.6 per cent.

Most of the drop in demand for butane and propane (down 5.1 per cent) can be laid at the door of industry. Similarly there were substantial reductions in the consumption of burning oil, gas oil and diesel all of which were largely attributable to industry and commerce. But the most dramatic swing is recorded in the heavy fuel oil sector. Even after accounting for the cut-back in supplies to power stations, deliveries of fuel oil to industry and commerce fell 23.6 per cent during the first quarter. At the same time deliveries of industrial coal fell by 11 per cent.

Case studies

All these changes must be seen in the light of reduced economic activity. The index of production for manufacturing industries was down 2.5 per cent as against the first quarter of 1978.

So, on the face of it, conservation effort is moving ahead of economic trends. This is borne out by a host of case studies cited by Mr. Moore. Among them are:

● Olives Paper Mill, at Bury, spent £100,000 on equipment to

re-use hot air from drying cylinders. It is estimated that fuel savings will exceed £25,000 a year.

● Ardmore Distillery invested £250,000 to re-use high grade heat. Savings: at least £80,000 annually.

● Yorkshire Brick Company, Barnsley, spent around £10,000 on a heat recovery system and is saving over £335 a week—£360,000 a year—as a result.

The savings achieved in these schemes may appear modest when set against what is being achieved by the big energy-intensive groups—oil refiners, chemical manufacturers, the iron and steel companies, motor manufacturers and the like. But they illustrate what can be achieved, often with relatively modest investment. It is worth noting that the latest winner of British Gas Corporation's "Gas Energy Management" (GEM) award—E. and E. Kaye of Enfield has achieved a 75 per cent reduction in the amount of natural gas needed for the heat treatment of aluminium billets.

Mr. Archie Forster, the new chairman and chief executive of Esso Petroleum, recently gave his endorsement of the need for even greater conservation effort when he delivered the Idrijs Memorial Lecture—A Sane View of the Energy Future—a few weeks ago. He said:

"The most powerful force for change will be the force of the market, and we must have the courage to let it operate. The market pricing mechanism tells customers which fuels to use and when to use them, if it is allowed to reflect the true cost of the resources involved. It is the greatest conservation propaganda one could wish for—much superior to any form of exhortation."

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Choosing electricity makes sound business sense

Derek Melven is a Managing Director who doesn't take decisions without a thorough analysis of all the relevant facts and alternatives. For some of the processes at Aylesbury-based TRW United-Carr, where they make over £5 million worth of fastening devices for the automotive appliance markets each year, the decision to install new plant meant that decisions needed to be taken on energy sources too.

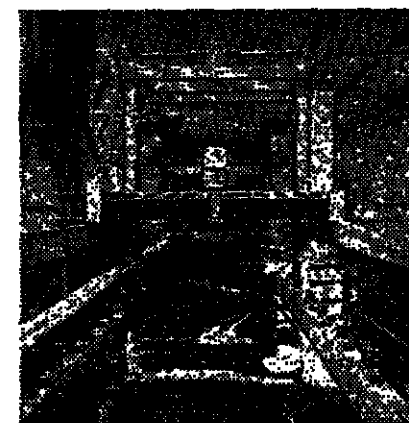
In four key areas, Derek uses electricity and he says "Working experience is proving that we made the right choice. Increased output, better quality control and improvements in the working environment are all coming out very close to forecast."

A compressed-air drying unit keeps their pneumatic systems on the go... electric heat-treatment furnaces have increased output by 50%... the automatic electro-plating line has led to closer quality control... and electric lift-trucks are giving an improved working environment.

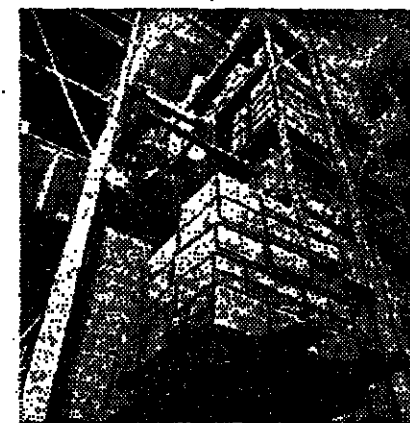
This helps to show how an Industrial Sales Engineer from the local Electricity Board has advised on the best use of electricity in a particular manufacturing situation.

In this case, it was John Aldous from the Eastern Board who worked alongside his customer and helped get results which make sound energy management sense. To talk to the men who have the experience to help improve your company's operating efficiency, just contact your Electricity Board.

Derek Melven (far left) and John Aldous examine fastening devices before heat treatment at TRW United-Carr.



Closer control of quality has become possible now that automatic electro-plating is in use.



Battery powered lift-trucks, charged on night-time low tariff electricity, are giving a cleaner, quieter working environment.

INVESTELECTRIC
The Electricity Council, England and Wales

Specialists to the Energy Industries for over 30 Years



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Coal set for comeback

COAL, WHICH lost much of its British industrial market during the cheap oil era of the 1960s, is poised to make a comeback.

Nothing illustrates this more clearly than figures: in the 1960s coal held 72 per cent of the market for fuel burnt by general industry, by hospitals and local authorities using industrial-type boilers. Today coal only accounts for 13 per cent of this market, about 11m tonnes a year. But the National Coal Board hopes that over the next 10 to 15 years it will push its share up to 30 per cent or more.

Four factors are vital in achieving this target: an assured supply of coal, reasonable prices, ease of coal use, and the construction of sufficient new boilers to burn the fuel.

Evidence

Supply seems to have turned a corner. Deep-mined production rose by 4m tonnes last year, to 108m tonnes, the first year-on-year increase since 1963. It is the firmest evidence yet that the investment poured into the industry since the mid-1970s is starting to pay dividends.

It is impossible to say just how closely domestic supply will match demand in the year 2000. The recently published World Coal Study predicted UK demand then would be anywhere between 140m and 180m tonnes. The NCB aims to supply 170m tonnes. Many observers believe this may be over-ambitious, but the Coal Study nevertheless estimates that imports will have little, if any, part to play in meeting the country's needs.

Indeed, with the demand for power station coal growing only slowly and the domestic market relatively stable, the NCB will be looking to industry as a vital consumer of its output over the next decade.

Forecasts of the future price of coal, compared to other fuels, generate as much argument as the supply/demand equation. There are two broad schools of thought. One reckons that coal will follow up the price of oil closely, though always maintaining a competitive margin of at least 15 per cent

beneath oil. The other estimates that a considerably greater gap could open up between the two.

The price ratio of industrial coal to oil varies, but in the UK now the average price of coal per therm delivered to the boundary of a general industrial site is around 65 per cent that of oil (17-18p a useful therm for coal, 27-28p a therm for oil). The advantage can be reduced somewhat by higher operating costs but the gap is still substantial and seems likely to remain so.

Furthermore, many of the handling problems once associated with coal use have been minimised by technical advance. Pneumatic handling systems, for example, can pump coal by pipeline into plants and remove ash in the same way. Meanwhile, the new fluidised bed boiler, gradually being introduced, offers lower operating costs and more efficient fuel consumption.

But although coal's future in industry looks bright, there are fears within the NCB that

bottlenecks could develop in the provision of new boilers to burn the fuel.

The board estimated that 25,000 new boilers may be needed in the UK over the next 10-15 years. Already there are clear signs of a switch to coal firing by some major companies but the movement is not as rapid as it could be.

Gearing

One problem seems to be the capital costs involved in a switch at a time of high interest rates and an economy going into recession. Companies with expensive-to-run but workable oil plant are unenthusiastic about an investment which will worsen their gearing, whatever the long-term benefits.

The fear at the NCB is that by delaying a switch, companies may create an eventual logjam in the supply of boilers and ancillary equipment, with every

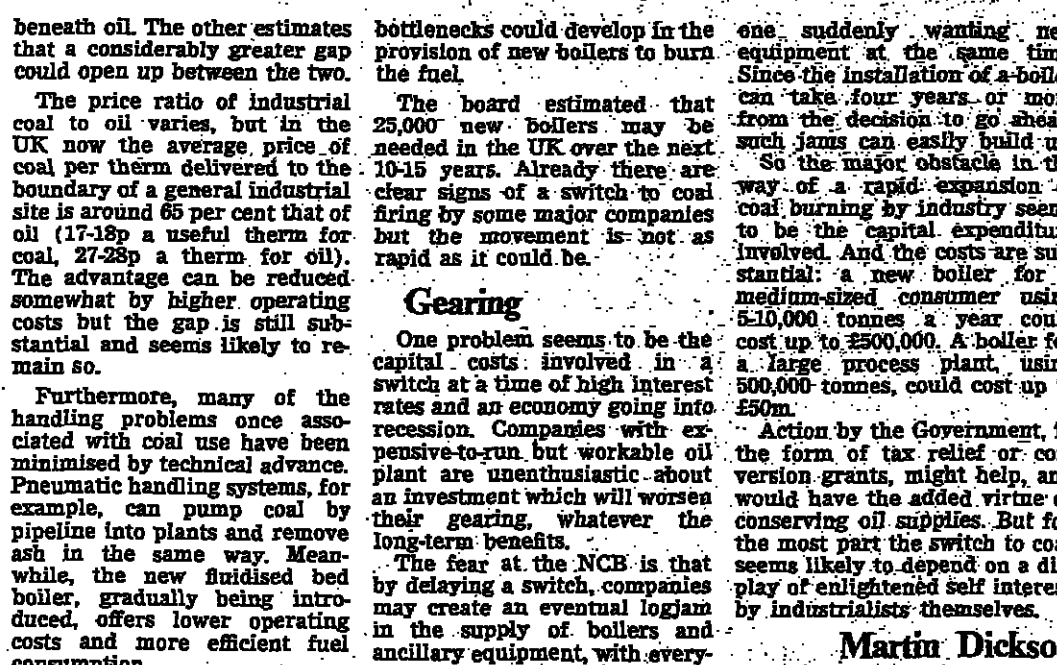
one suddenly wanting new equipment at the same time. Since the installation of a boiler can take four years or more from the decision to go ahead, such jams can easily build up.

So the major obstacle in the way of a rapid expansion of coal burning by industry seems to be the capital expenditure involved. And the costs are substantial: a new boiler for a medium-sized consumer using 5-10,000 tonnes a year could cost up to £500,000. A boiler for a large process plant, using 500,000 tonnes, could cost up to £50m.

Action by the Government, in the form of tax relief or conversion grants, might help, and would have the added virtue of conserving oil supplies. But for the most part the switch to coal seems likely to depend on a display of enlightened self-interest by industrialists themselves.

Martin Dickson

Operating hydraulic roof supports at the new Bettis drift mine, South Wales, part of the National Coal Board's £600m. a year expansion programme



Fuel costs force electricity rise

THESE ARE difficult days for the electricity supply industry, which has just announced a 10 per cent price rise for August — 5 per cent more and two months earlier than planned.

This announcement came at the same time as one from the Government saying it was asking the Monopolies Commission to investigate the efficiency and costs of the Central Electricity Generating Board, which provides the English and Welsh area Boards with their bulk electricity supplies.

At present, the national price of electricity delivered to medium sized industrial consumers averages 83.5p a therm. After August 1 this will go up to 89p a therm.

The factory behind the price rises, which are also likely to be the issues looked at by the Monopolies Commission, go a long way towards explaining the industry's present state and future outlook.

The most important reason cited by the Electricity Council for the price rise was the increased cost of the fuel used to generate electricity. It said oil doubled in price over the last year and coal had gone up by 35 per cent.

Since fuel accounts for more than 50 per cent of the electricity industry's costs, a large proportion of its prices merely reflect coal and oil price rises over which it has no control.

Another significant factor in the rise will have been the industry's need to stick to the financial target set for it by the Government for the next three years—an average annual rate of return of 1.8 per cent on net assets — and its external financing limit, fixed for 1980/81 at £187m.

Complain

As it is, the industry had to exceed by £200m-£300m the borrowing ceiling set for it in the financial year to last March. The figures may seem large, but they are small compared to the turnover of what is one of the country's largest and most important industrial organisations, and many complain that the borrowing limit merely hinders commercial efficiency. Last year's unexpected overshooting of the borrowing target was due in large measure to an unexpected drop in demand for electricity just when the industry was carrying high fuel stocks.

The drop stemmed from mild winter weather and strikes in the engineering and steel industries, but it may also have been due to the gathering recession, which is expected to produce very slow growth in electricity demand over the next six years.

Latest Electricity Council

figures suggest that demand will remain static at 226 terawatt hours until 1987-82, when a modest rise will begin. But by 1986-87, it will only have reached 239.4 TWh, 6 per cent higher than now.

Longer-term demand is very difficult to gauge but the council reckons that by the year 2000 it could be between 269 and 437 TWh, probably towards the lower end of this range.

Peak demand

On the supply side, the 1980s should provide the industry with an embarrassment of riches. With 13,000 MW of new generating plant under construction, there should be capacity throughout the 1980s in excess of the so-called planning margin. This is the 28 per cent of capacity above peak demand which the CEB has ready to cover plant unavailability.

However, in the 1990s the position begins to change. It is estimated that between 30,000 and 40,000 MW of elderly plant will have to be taken out of service before the year 2000.

It was to help plug this gap that the Government announced last December a nuclear expansion programme. First, two more British-designed advanced gas-cooled reactors (AGRs) stations are to be built at Heysham in Lancashire and Torness in Scotland—despite some Government wavering on the issues this year.

After that, the aim is to begin work on one nuclear station a year in the decade from 1982, starting with Britain's first American-designed pressurised water reactor (PWR) station. But already the starting date for that is slipping back to 1983-84.

Irrespective of the precise demand for electricity during the 1980s, CEB officials estimate that the new nuclear stations will work out considerably cheaper than equivalent coal-fired plants, taking capital and running costs together, and that they will also provide a marginal saving compared with maintaining existing oil plant in the system.

Nevertheless, the industry will continue to rely heavily on coal and, to a lesser extent, oil for its fuel needs for a long time yet and its prices will inevitably reflect theirs. August's price rises illustrate how this can thwart plans to make electricity more competitive with rival fuels, and there are more rises in the pipeline: the Government expects the price of electricity to go up by 5 per cent more than the rate of inflation in both 1981 and 1982.

Martin Dickson

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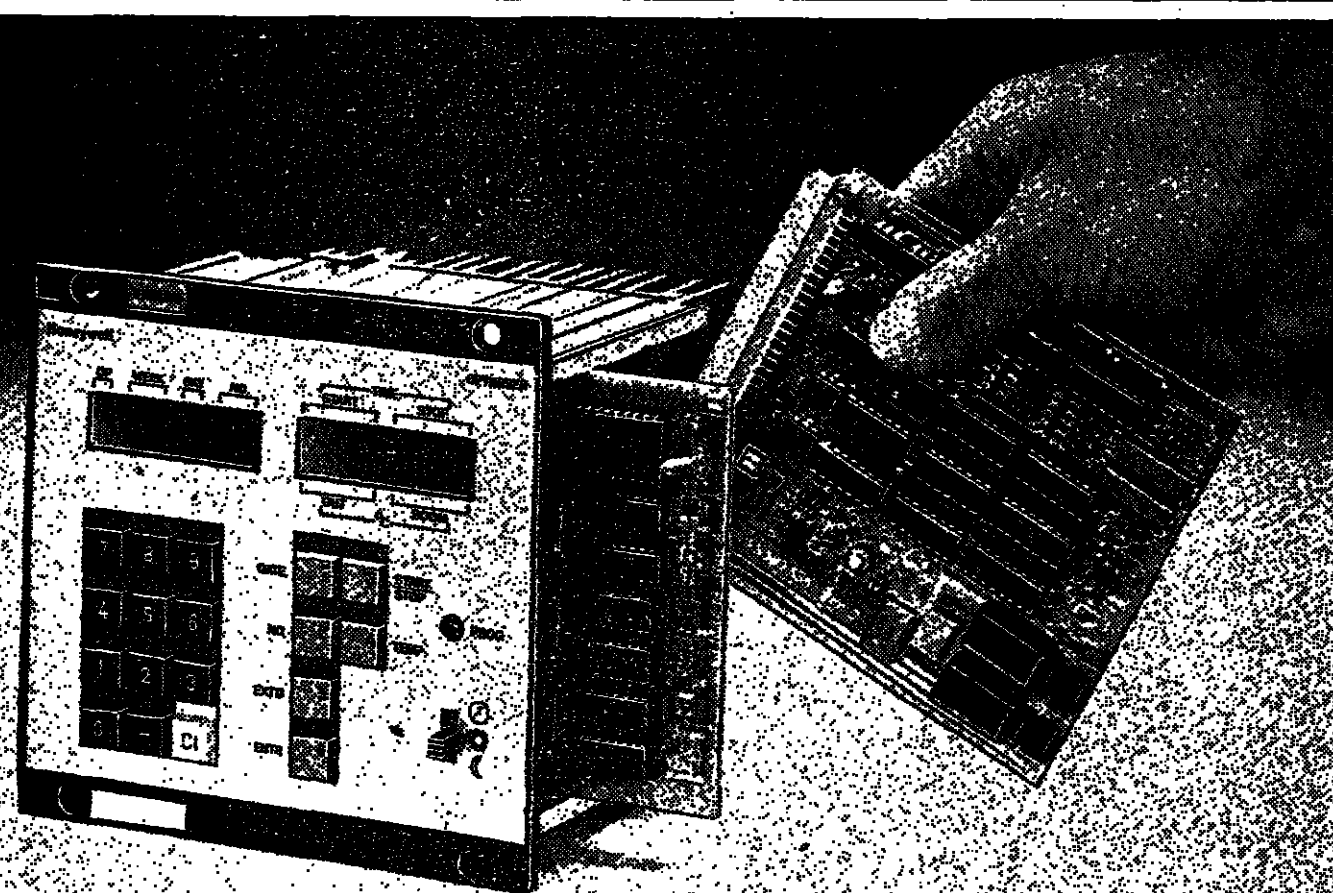


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ENERGY FOR INDUSTRY III

Oil market remains unstable

INDUSTRIAL BUYERS of oil products must think they are involved in a perpetual game of "Heads I lose, tails you win."

Last year, in the wake of the Iranian crisis, they faced supply shortages as oil companies, concerned about stock levels and market disruptions, restricted deliveries. And, of course, prices went up.

So far this year oil supplies have been more than adequate to meet demand. The mild winter and lowered economic activity have left stock tanks full. With Saudi Arabia—the world's major oil exporter—still willing to maintain output at the high level of 9.5m barrels a day, companies have ended their restrictions on deliveries. And prices keep going up.

Now big oil companies are warning their customers not to be complacent: to be aware that further supply disruptions and shortages could come at any time in what is still a fragile oil market. And there is a general recognition that prices are likely to continue to go up.

On New Year's Eve 1978, a barrel (35 gallons) of North Sea oil from the Forties Field cost \$14. By the beginning of June this year, and since then, it has risen to \$32.25 a barrel.

For the first time the UK Energy Department has included fuel price indices in its Energy Trends statistical bulletin. The latest issue shows that between 1973 and the end of last year the price of fuel oil, in current terms, rose 502 per cent. By comparison the index of wholesale prices, excluding crude oil and carbonising coal, rose by just over 144 per cent during the same period. The actual prices agreed by oil companies and their industrial and commercial buyers are not normally disclosed. How-

ever, two fuel consultants—Cambridge Information and Research Services and John Hall Associates—put the average mid-May price of heavy fuel oil, bought in bulk by large customers, at about 39.5p-43.25p per gallon. Such prices for a refined product, it should be noted, were only a fraction above the mid-May price of crude oil. Assuming an average crude price of \$31 a barrel and an exchange rate of \$2.34 to the pound, unrefined oil is seen to have cost about 38p a gallon.

High-quality gas oil—used by British Gas Corporation as the basis for the calculation of its contract pricing—was costing between 59p and 65p a gallon in mid-May, according to the two consultants. (All their prices relate to new or renewed contracts.)

Cambridge Information forecasts that industrial and commercial fuel buyers should be able to look forward to stable or even falling product prices in the coming months in view of the depressed economic conditions and consequent falling demand. In its April energy bulletin, the consultants reckoned that those companies with relatively strong purchasing power may be able to negotiate lower net prices for their oil with cuts of up to 10 per cent on current levels.

Realistic prices

That said, the Government has made energy conservation through realistic prices a cornerstone of its fuel policies. The North Sea should soon be yielding enough oil to put the UK into a position of net self-sufficiency around 1.5m barrels daily. By the present Government, like its predecessors, is making sure that the oil is sold at the world market



Work progresses on one of the most ambitious oil refinery projects in Western Europe—a catalytic cracking unit which will upgrade products from the Texaco and Gulf refineries in Milford Haven, South Wales. The £250m project forms part of a general oil industry scheme to extract from crude oil a higher proportion of transport fuels and chemical feedstocks and a lesser amount of heavy fuel oil.

rate. As North Sea crude is of premium quality, the policy means that UK oil is among the most expensive in the world.

"It is quite clear that the step we have taken to ensure the price of energy must signal its value and scarcity has been the most effective conservation measure taken over the last 10 years," Mr. John Moore, Junior Energy Minister responsible for conservation, said at a commercial motor conference a fortnight ago.

He was speaking as the Government released details of energy consumption in the first quarter of this year. Overall primary energy demand fell by 6.6 per cent against the corresponding period of last year. But the consumption of oil pro-

ducts dropped by 14.4 per cent. Depressed industrial activity, the steel strike, relatively mild weather, conservation effort and the switch from oil to other fuels all combined to cause the reduction in demand.

During the early part of this year, for instance, the amount of oil used by the iron and steel industry was 43.5 per cent below last year's level. The amount of oil—predominantly heavy fuel oil—used in power stations was down by about one third as the Central Electricity Generating Board increased its coal burn.

The switch from oil and gas to coal and nuclear power in the electricity generating industry is a central plank in the energy policies of most industrialised countries. Energy Ministers of the European Economic Community have just agreed that by 1990 solid fuels and nuclear energy should cover at least 70-75 per cent of the primary

energy requirements for electricity production.

More generally, the EEC Ministers want to reduce oil consumption to a level equal to—or lower than—40 per cent of gross primary energy consumption by the end of the decade. At present, oil accounts for about half the EEC's energy needs.

Target

Ministers of countries belonging to the wider International Energy Agency (basically the whole of the developed Western world) have set themselves a similar target. At present, oil's share in IEA's total energy demand is 52 per cent. A communiqué issued on May 22 said: "Ministers noted that a smooth medium-term transition away from an oil-based economy, is a prerequisite for a prospering world economy in which all nations can pursue economic growth and development."

If governments can effect the necessary changes in energy balances, if industry, commerce and the private individual respond to the call for greater conservation effort, if dampened economic growth leads to lower than expected energy demand and if members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries maintain output at around last year's level, there should be plenty of oil to go around. That should result in new pricing stability. But there are many "ifs" and the conclusions are by no means certain when oil has been turned as much into a political weapon as an economic commodity.

As the IEA communiqué put it: "The price increases since the end of 1979 have occurred despite falling oil demand and appear to have been made without taking into account their adverse impact on the world economy."

Ray Dafter

Government watch on energy use

BRITISH INDUSTRY has reacted in various ways—and at varying speeds—to the inexorable pressures throughout the 1970s for more efficient use of energy. Many individual companies have forged ahead with their own energy-saving techniques but there has also been a growing realisation of the need to bring together individual ideas and techniques for application on an industry-wide basis.

The Departments of Energy and Industry, therefore, for some time have been actively pursuing a policy of encouraging energy audits of major industries and these have been carried out often with the aid of the trade association of the industry concerned.

One of the major problems, however, has been obtaining the commitment of top management in the major companies. There are many industries, for example, where the energy percentage of the cost make-up is small. However, when expressed as a proportion of the value added to a product it can take on an entirely new significance. Certain operations in the dairy industry and metal processing industries—such as rolling aluminium—fall into this category.

In the latter case, for example, energy use is almost 5 per cent of sales value, i.e. very small—but it represents the not insubstantial figure of 30 per cent of controllable costs.

Here is a closer look at the various steps being taken towards energy saving in some major industries.

BREWING: The brewing industry was one of the first to be aware of the need for energy saving. A fuel use survey in 1977, for example, revealed that some breweries were using three times as much energy as others to produce the same quantity of beer. Such differences were accounted for by the age, design, and capacity of plant.

Consequently, the industry set itself a target of reducing energy consumption by 10 per cent over the four years to 1982. In fact, it achieved this target within the first two years of the plan and saved an estimated 2m gigajoules of energy—equivalent to about 20m tonnes of gas or 100,000 tonnes of coal equivalent.

Feasible Based on this success, a recent industry energy audit—published in consultation with the Brewers' Society—suggested that energy savings of 33 per cent are considered technically feasible.

The energy audit for the brewing industry revealed several potential energy-saving methods. These included: heat recovery from the keg cleaning and racking lines (saving 80,000 tonnes of coal equivalent a year); improved management of the brewery heat load (savings 73,000 tonnes); and recovery of the boil-off from the brew of the introduction of alternative boiling techniques (saving 73,000 tonnes).

ALUMINIUM: Other than in primary smelting, the major part of energy used in the aluminium industry is in furnaces. There are, however, vast differences in the capacity and

context in which furnaces are used. Estimates suggest that standard energy-saving techniques, such as educating employees and good housekeeping, could achieve savings of 4,000 tonnes per year, having a value of £7m.

The application of simple direct-reading instruments, for example, could also result in savings of up to £3m a year, the energy audit of the industry suggested. This audit also pointed out that little heat recovery was practised in the industry. "The few conventional heat exchangers that have been incorporated in the stacks of furnaces have generally shown poor performance," the audit says. Estimates of the potential savings from waste heat recovery suggest that a total of £4m a year could be saved.

The energy audit concludes: "For many years, and even today, energy conservation in areas other than primary production has tended to be regarded as of secondary importance. This has led to a characteristic organisation of production which is not oriented towards using energy efficiently."

GLASS: The glass industry accounts for more than 2 per cent of the total energy used by the main industrial groups. About 80 per cent of the energy used in the industry goes into melting the raw materials to make the glass, which is then formed into various products. This high proportion in the melting process has made manufacturers very aware over the years of the need to improve performance of the melting units.

Careful timing

However, the high cost of glass melting equipment means that replacement by new, more energy-efficient machines may not be made for several years. Therefore, the industry's energy audit suggests that careful timing should be considered of the research into fundamental changes in melting methods so that the results become available as furnaces are due for renewal.

The energy audit report also shows that there is a great loss of heat during the manufacturing process and suggests that there may well be further work to be done on utilisation of this heat. But the report acknowledges that most of the lost heat is low grade and it is not immediately apparent how it could be used.

TEXTILES: Industry estimates suggest that in the various textile sectors—knitting cotton and allied spinning and weaving, woollen and worsted manufacture, dyeing and finishing—there is scope for energy savings of between 15 to 19 per cent, amounting in total to £20m a year.

The possibilities for savings vary from sector to sector, but one constant factor has been inefficient space heating and air conditioning of many plants.

Energy is being wasted too in other simple ways. A study of the woollen industry showed that perhaps as much as £300 per company per year could be saved by a switch from inefficient and often grimy tungsten lighting to more efficient forms of lighting such as fluorescent

tubes. The combination of measures required for the textile industry, therefore, is partly simple good housekeeping and partly the installation of new devices, many of them relatively inexpensive.

IRON CASTINGS: The output of the iron casting industry is larger than that of all other metal castings put together, and the products are diverse—ranging in complexity from iron pipes to car engine cylinder blocks. The industry accounts for about 3 per cent of all energy consumption equal to nearly 6m tons of coal per year.

It is estimated in the industry's energy audit that, in addition to savings that might accrue through good housekeeping measures, not less than 10 per cent of the fuel needed for casting might be saved by employing better technology. It is acknowledged, however, that this could take 15 to 20 years to achieve.

The iron casting industry appears to be the only one of the basic industries that comprises a multiplicity of small units, although production will become increasingly concentrated into fewer, larger ones in future. Much energy could be saved, according to the audit, if advantages were taken of this trend to introduce more efficient ways of melting and superheating the iron. In the traditional cold-chill cupola, for example, dividing the air blast and injecting this at two levels could save about 1.5 gigajoules per tonne of molten metal.

BRICKS: Energy worth more than £1m a year could be saved in the brick manufacturing industry, according to the energy audit for the industry. Savings of 5 per cent could be made merely by the adoption of good housekeeping methods and through minor repairs such as sealing leaks on kilns, repairing doors on dryers, and lagging pipes.

Limited capital expenditure on measures such as the insulation of dryers and improved instrumentation could give added savings of 10 per cent on the industry's fuel bill.

CHEMICALS: The chemical industry is a large consumer of energy mainly in the form of heat. The industry also produces much process heat, often at high temperatures, and offers opportunities for heat recovery.

After exploiting all practicable methods of heat recovery, large quantities of heat usually are still being dissipated into the cooling system. Most of this is low grade heat, for which there is either no demand at this temperature, or recovery is not practicable by conventional methods.

This heat can still be recovered, either by converting it to a higher temperature using heat pumps, or converting it to electrical power by the application of the reverse heat pump principle. However, such methods are rarely economic at present.

Further information on energy savings in the various industries mentioned, and other information about efficient energy use, can be obtained from the Department of Energy, Information Division, Thames House South, Millbank, London.

David Churchill

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ENERGY FOR INDUSTRY IV

Gas supplies fully stretched

BRITISH GAS CORPORATION has become very choosy about which new industrial and commercial customers it wishes to take on. The selectivity stems from a new marketing—or, to be more accurate, non-marketing—policy which the corporation finds somewhat embarrassing.

It cannot meet all the demand for new business which has arisen, says the corporation, because of the "flight from oil." British Gas argues that fuel users are not only worried about spiralling oil prices, they are

also concerned about certainty of supplies.

For its part, British Gas has been severely limiting its new business in the past year or so to ensure it can fulfil its existing contract commitments.

Consequently, the corporation has been limiting new supply contracts to those companies and commercial undertakings that have used gas in the past or that have a statutory right to supplies (those which use less than 25,000 therms a year and are situated within 25 yards of a

gas main). Exceptions to these rules are applied to applicants who can demonstrate a special need for gas: manufacturers with particular processes, for instance.

Soon all industrial and commercial customers of British Gas will be put on the same footing when it comes to the renewal of contracts. Changes introduced in a new Gas Bill, now going through Parliament, may raise doubts about security of supplies, in the minds of some customers. They will

almost certainly result in higher prices. But, according to the Gas Corporation, they will put an end to many anomalies.

Under the legislation 11,500 companies will lose their automatic right to assured supplies. British Gas at present has a statutory obligation to supply these customers, which were all customers prior to 1976. In general they each buy between 25,000 and 100,000 therms a year.

In future they will have to compete for renewed contract supplies on the same footing as other big gas users. British Gas has said that as established customers they would be given priority.

Protection

However, these customers will no longer be able to use the legislative protection of assured supplies as a means of keeping down costs. At present this special category of gas user can opt to buy supplies on non-domestic tariff rather than at the much higher negotiated contract rates.

Since the latest price increase in April, the non-domestic tariff in the North Thames region is 26.1p a therm, with an additional 23p a quarter standing charge. A company signing a one-year firm supply agreement under contract would have to pay the equivalent of gas oil prices—now around 40p a therm. According to the Gas Corporation's latest annual report, the price of industrial gas supplies over the past 10 years has risen from 4.5p a therm (in 1970-71) to 11.9p (in 1978-79) while commercial prices have gone up from 8.0p a therm (in 1970-71) to 17.5p (in 1978-79) they were 17.5p.

During the same period there has been an almost fourfold increase in industrial gas sales. In 1970-71, sales of gas to industry accounted for 1.7bn therms of the total 6.74bn therms supplied by the Gas Corporation. In the 1978-79 financial year, they accounted for over 6bn of the 16.7bn therms of gas distributed. The latest Digest of UK Energy Statistics shows that British Gas is meet-

ing 28 per cent of industry's energy needs, on a heat supplied basis.

An analysis of industrial gas sales reveals some firm underlying trends. In 1969-70, over 60 per cent of supplies went to the engineering and metals sectors. Today these account for only 32 per cent of industrial gas supplies. The chemical industry's demands, on the other hand, have jumped from 7 per cent of supplies to a share of 36 per cent.

Chemical companies are becoming excited about the prospect of much more gas—both methane, and natural gas liquids for use as petrochemical feedstock—coming ashore through the new North Sea gas gathering system which is expected to receive Government approval this summer. The pipeline network, costing £1bn, to £1.5bn, could be one of the most ambitious offshore projects ever undertaken.

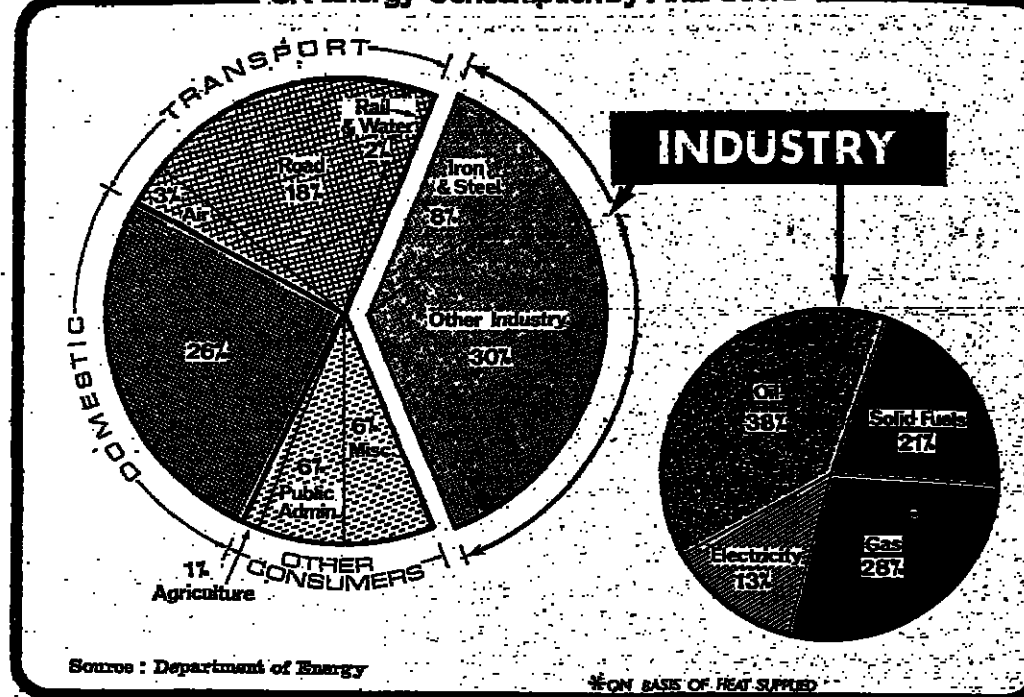
The gas collection scheme, running 400 miles and linking the Magnus Field in the north and Fulmar in the south, would be the outcome of a study jointly conducted by British Gas and Mobil. British Petroleum has said it will soon submit to the Government its own proposals for a gas-gathering network, a more comprehensive and longer-lasting one than British Gas/Mobil's.

Context

The British Gas/Mobil scheme envisages supplies of heat-giving methane building up to 1.5bn cubic feet a day. This amount should be seen in the context of the average rate of Gas Corporation sales in the past year or so—4.5bn cubic feet a day (16bn therms a year). Over the next few years, sales are expected to build up to around 6bn cfd, before flattening out.

The gas-gathering pipeline is not the only means by which the corporation will be able to remove sales restrictions. The state undertaking is about to exploit its own Morecambe gas field in the Irish Sea, a reservoir containing estimated recover-

UK Energy Consumption by Final Users*



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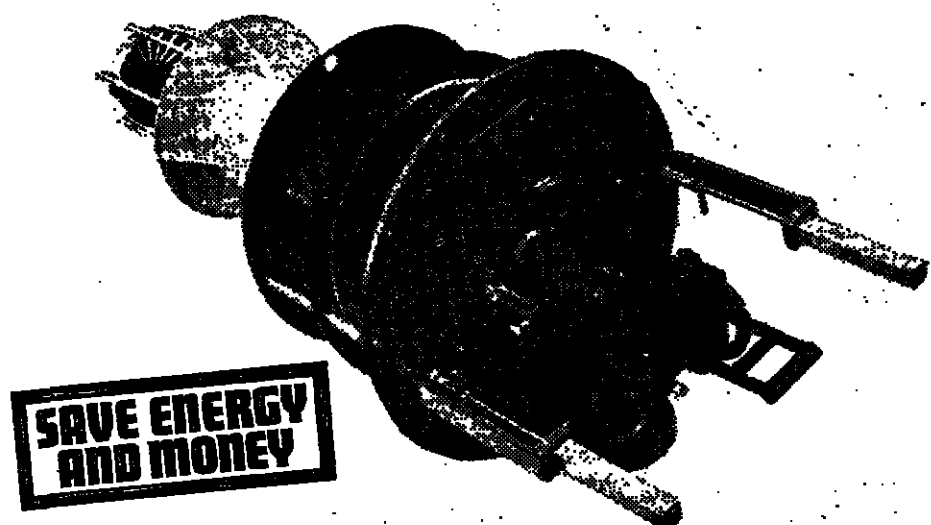
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Energy managers and their status

ENERGY MANAGERS are still waiting to be fully recognised by industry. Being something of a new breed, born of a succession of fuel crisis and rapidly rising energy costs, they are still often emerging largely as a result of company directors saying: "We must do something to cut our energy costs. Get old So-and-So to have a look at the problem."

Consequently, while there are several thousand "energy managers" known to the Department of Energy, their qualifications for the job range very widely indeed—from being maintenance engineers to marketing managers.

Yet the need for a specific individual within a company to co-ordinate efforts to bring down the level of energy bills is apparent enough, partly because very considerable savings—10 per cent and more of total energy costs—can easily be achieved with fairly limited effort, and partly because the methods by which energy consumption can be reduced are becoming more sophisticated. So it makes sense for someone to have responsibility for monitoring the field if the company is big enough to warrant it.

Attentiveness

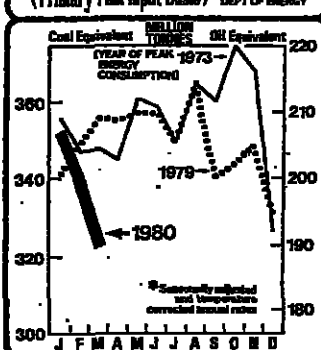
The Departments of Energy and Industry are well aware of the growing attentiveness of companies to the need to reduce fuel bills. They are receiving more and more inquiries from companies about the likely trend of fuel prices over the next few years and ways in which savings can be achieved. Often, too, such companies are preparing their annual budgets and are becoming only too well aware that every potential area of cost savings needs to be investigated.

Simple steps can usually be taken to produce immediate savings that are crucial to a company's cash flow, particularly in present times when low productivity, poor markets and high cost of money are combining to create liquidity problems across wide sections of industry.

Two of the most obvious areas that energy managers tend to look at are boilers and insulation. More efficient use of boilers, often through better servicing and similar basic steps, can make a noticeable impact while better insulation of both heating and ventilating systems and buildings generally can generate savings that often repay the cost involved within a few months.

But anything more than the most simple steps generally raises the question of the status of the energy manager. For if he begins to put together pro-

UK ENERGY CONSUMPTION (Primary Fuel Input Basis)*



company to operate without such hindrances. Normally that means being answerable direct to the board or management immediately below that level.

A full-time energy manager is probably only justified in larger companies where the energy bill is not only sizeable but where such costs represent a significant proportion of the company's total costs. In such instances the scope for savings is probably substantial and can be effected not only by basic measures but also by investment in equipment which generates direct and indirect savings.

Harness

A good example of the more sophisticated type of savings is to be found in the record producing industry. Records require that the plastic is very hot for pressing, but made cold immediately afterwards. In the process a lot of heat disappears through cooling towers. But it is perfectly possible to harness that heat for warming the building in the winter, thus saving considerably on fuel bills in cold weather.

As more and more companies are beginning to produce equipment designed to effect energy savings in manufacturing processes so the requirement for energy managers to have more technical knowledge increases. For this reason many energy managers apparently believe that an engineering background is ideal for their job.

Nevertheless, there is no reason why somebody with a lesser qualification should not do such a job in a smaller company—and on a part-time basis only. It would be perfectly feasible for somebody in the maintenance department to take on an energy manager's role, installing such smaller energy-saving devices as thermostats on individual radiators (which can be highly effective) and generally ensuring that a tighter rein is kept on all forms of energy consumption.

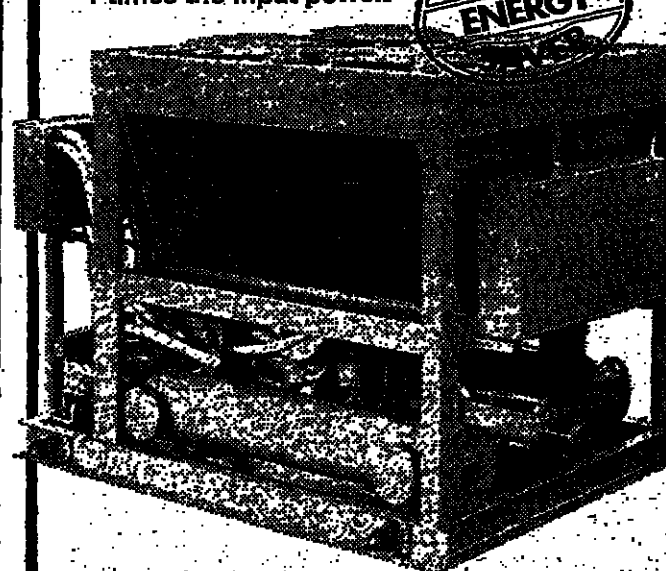
In the UK there are some 74 Energy Managers Groups—that is, regional groups which began to be established three or four years ago on the initiative of the Department of Energy's regional energy conservation managers. They meet regularly—each group drawing together between 30 and 50 energy managers—and discuss ideas and new processes and anything else relevant to energy saving. As yet it appears that there is no discernible "average energy manager" since their backgrounds differ widely. But it is quite probable that a clearer picture will emerge within a few years as companies are forced to become more energy-conscious.

Nicholas Leslie

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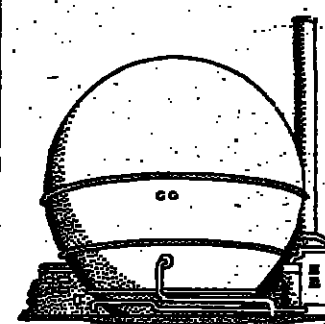
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place from 9 am two business days
earlier.

The recent strong upward movement in equity markets showed no signs of abating yesterday. The Prime Minister's speech emphasising the Government's resolve to adhere to its monetary policy failed to dampen fresh buying enthusiasm which resulted in a fairly widespread list of gains. Trading conditions in the market were also to higher levels and long-dated issues finished the session with rises of 1/2 and occasionally more.

Overall activity in equities remained at a fairly low ebb and shortage of stock again played an important part in the day's advance. This was particularly evident in the Property sector where closing gains were numerous and well above the average. Trading in some of the industrial leaders became a little more two-way, but profit-taking was well absorbed and the majority of quotations ended only slightly below the day's best. The FT 30-share index advanced 1.6 more to 448.5, making a rise of 32.6 so far on the Account which ends today.

Noteworthy movements in the leaders included Metal Box which responded fresh following comments on the preliminary figures, while firm features were fairly numerous throughout the sectors. Dealings restarted in News International at 150p, compared with the suspension price of 163p. Firmer conditions returned to British Funds yesterday although the volume of business was relatively small. The further call of £30 per cent due today on Exchequer 13 1/2 per cent 1992, 1/2 harder at £20, was possibly a restraining influence and the market was also waiting for the Government broker to reactivate the medium long term Exchequer 13 1/2 per cent 1994 £40 paid, last dealt in a small way on Tuesday. However, closing improvements in the medium and long term ranged to 1/2 below the day's best but still up to 1/2 better.

Traded options continued to attract an active business and 1,539 deals were completed. Racial, annual results due next Thursday, were dealt 216 times, while BP and Shell attracted 213 and 140 trades respectively.

Bank of Scotland up

Buyers came again for home banks in the belief that a further prolonged period of record interest rates will keep profits rising. Bank of Scotland was particularly favoured and closed 12 to the good at 285p, but other major clearers closed a few pence below the best. Lloyds rose 5 to 315p, after 318p, and Midland ended 3 dearer at 355p, after 358p. Merchant banks were featured by a rise of 4 to 94p in Samuel following the preliminary results, while renewed investment support lifted Hambros 12 to 418p.

Leading Breweries again made a firm showing although the tone softened towards the close. Bass ended 2 better at 222p, after 223p, while Arthur Guinness, in front of today's interim results, rose to 98p before settling for a net gain of 2 at 96p. Among regional issues, Mansfield added a couple of pence to 144p following the pleasing full-year profits, while Belhaven closed a penny better at 50p on the disposal of its Bermudian subsidiaries for £57m. Good support was noted for Distillers, 3 up at 201p.

In firm Buildings, Redland was notable for a gain of 6 at 166p, while Barratt Developments put on 4 more to 111p. Wimpey, a dull market of late on adverse Press comment, rallied a penny to 64p, while speculative interest lifted SGB 6 to 150p and Higgs and Mill 5 to 50p. Renewed speculative buying was noted for selected Timber issues, Montague L. Meyer adding 3 to 101p and Mallinson-Denny 2 to 68p.

ICI touched 57 1/2p before easing in the absence of new-time interest to close a couple of pence up at 370p.

Kitchen Queen improve

Leading Stores closed with modest rises after attracting a better two-way business than of late. Burton gained 3 at 123p, while GUS A added 4 more to 408p. Methercare, 242p, and British Home, 280p, both firmed against the trend and shed a couple of pence to 134p. Elsewhere, revived speculative buying was noted for Polly Peck, 8 up at 65p, while Currys picked up 4 more at 185p. News that the sale of the company's retail outlets has gone through lifted recently dull Kitchen Queen 2 at 11p. Lee

Cooper found fresh support and jumped 23 to 265p, but Combined English eased 2 to 35p on profit-taking. Harris Queensway hardened 3 to 166p, while further consideration of the chairman's annual statement helped Empire put on 2 more at 134p.

Scattered support was again seen for Electricals. Racial added 2 to 245p; the preliminary results due next Thursday. Farrell became a good market awaiting news from the annual meeting, rising 10 to 236p, while similar gains were recorded in Unitech,

which began the session firmly, but eased towards the close. Brent Walker added 2 to 74p on the good preliminary profits and increased dividend.

Metal Box stood out among the miscellaneous industrial leaders, rising 12 for a two-day advance of 24 to 296p on the better-than-expected results and the chairman's encouraging remarks on prospects. Pilling rose to support ahead of today's annual figures and rose 5 to 213p, after 215p. Elsewhere, speculative buying on revived bid

hopes helped Starza Ware add 10 to 166p, while demand ahead of Monday's preliminary figures lifted National Carbondising 8 to 140p. The sharply higher profits and proposed £900,000 rights issue prompted a rise of 10 to 285p in Applied Computers, while Valor gained 4 to 57p, also after trading news. UKO International responded to the results with a rise of 9 to 123p and European Ferries reflected investment support with a gain of 4 to 154p. Still drawing strength from the bumper profits and proposed 100 per cent scrip-issue, Continuous Stationery added 4 more to 56p, while De La Rue closed 20 higher at 690p, after 685p. Thomas French, initially battered at 122p, fell on mild disappointment with the interim figures and closed 2 down on balance at 115p.

Among leisure issues, Management Agency and Music firmed 4 to 136p; the company has entered the fast-food catering business through a franchise agreement with Burger King. Elsewhere, Coral Leisure rose 3 1/2 to 67p, after 66p, following a squeeze on bear positions.

Metal Box up again

In Foods, Northern rose 3 to 133p, after 134p, in response to the excellent interim results, while Cadbury Schweppes rallied 2 to 57 1/2p. Elsewhere, Carr's Milling became prominent, rising 1 1/2 to 81p in a thin market as speculative interest revived. Leading Hotels and Caterers

Dealing in Godfrey Davis were suspended at 167p following the surprise news that the sale of its car-bus business to Europcar to be referred to the Monopolies Commission; dealings in the shares are expected to resume today. Components were often firmer; Dowty added 4 to 182p, while increased far-eastern support was seen for Dunlop, 2 up at 73p. Flight Refuelling rose another 6 to 305p awaiting news from the annual meeting.

Dealings were resumed in News International following the capital reorganisation proposals from Mr. Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation and the close was 190p, which compares with the May 19 suspension price of 163p. Elsewhere in firm newspapers, Associated continued to benefit from its interests in the Bruce gas field and rose 15 to 302p. Among advertising issues, Saatchi and Saatchi played with the increased annual profits and dividend and rose 11 to 183p, while demand was also shown for Mills and Allen, a similar amount up at 273p.

Undertaken by the less favourable outlook for lower interest rates, buyers made changes in the Property sector where widespread and sometimes useful gains were exaggerated by stock shortages. Land Securities featured strongly in the leaders, rising 7 to 319p, while the 100 per cent scrip-issue, putting on 7 1/2 to 57 1/2p premium. MEPC gained 6 to 512p and Great Portland Estates 8 to 245p, while rises of around 10 were marked against Haslemere Estates, 330p, and Stock Conversion, 366p.

Berkeley Ex. jump

Oil continued in cautious vein in the wake of the none-too-clear news of the OPEC meeting in Algeria. An attempted rally from lower opening levels ran out of steam and prices drifted back to close at the day's lowest. British Petroleum finished 4 cheaper at 385p and Shell 2 off at 402p. But Ultramar improved 10 to 360p, after 370p. Elsewhere, buying ahead of the annual results due soon helped ICI Gas to add 12 for a three-day gain of 36 to 886p, while a late speculative burst lifted Berkeley Exploration 26 to 225p, after 232p. Aran put on 16 to 428p and Sukkone, still reflecting a recent investment recommendation, firmed 9 more to 182p. A fair amount of interest was shown in Carless Capel which added 4 to 132p ex rights; the new nil-paid shares opened at 37p premium and touched 38p premium before closing at 35p premium.

Among irregular Shippings, British and Commonwealth rose 3 to 300p in response to the increased full-year profits and dividend. Support was again evident for James Fisher, 10 to the good at 157p, but P and O Deferred eased 3 to 116p on reflection of the chairman's cautious remarks on Wednesday.

Travellers were featured by Dawson International, 8 up at 101p ahead of next Monday's announcement of the preliminary results.

Samantha up again

Australians again provided most of the excitement in mining markets. Further consideration of the deal with Esso Australia resulted in renewed speculative buying of Samantha Exploration, 10 up at 136p, and Samson Exploration, 8 better at 96p.

The remaining "down-under"

gold issues tended to drift on profit-taking in the wake of the lower bullion price. Gold Mines of Kalgoorlie dipped 6 to 352p, Poconed a like amount to 172p and North Kalgoorlie 2 to 79p. Other Australians were mixed. In the diamond exploration stocks, Leitchair moved up 10 to 280p following news that the company has found an 8.6 carat gem diamond in its Reads Drift prospect in Cape Province, South Africa. Leading base-metal producers showed Western Mining 11 off at 339p. South African Gold staged a minor rally despite the uncertain trend in the bullion market; gold was finally 1 1/2 down at \$391 an ounce.

Bear closing and small-scale

fresh buying from local and overseas sources moved prices higher during the morning but they subsequently turned easier to close only fractionally up on balance. South African Financials were featured by General Mining which rose sharply for the third successive day to close 7 1/2 higher at 935p following sizeable and persistent buying from Johannesburg.

In generally subdued London Financials, Rio Tinto-Tinc was aggressively bought during the morning and touched 405p before reacting to close a net 5 better at 398p.

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FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES

	June 12	June 11	June 10	June 9	June 8	June 7
Government Secs.	68.58	68.05	68.12	68.28	67.75	67.25
Fixed Interest	68.61	68.64	68.61	68.78	68.48	68.28
Industrial	448.5	444.6	440.3	434.4	428.5	424.4
Equity	397.4	393.1	389.5	383.7	377.2	372.2
Ord. Div. Yield	8.00	8.05	8.14	8.24	8.27	8.27
Ord. Div. Yield (Full)	19.28	19.34	19.41	19.46	19.48	19.48
FT 30-share Index	448.5	444.6	440.3	434.4	428.5	424.4
Total Holdings	81,166	18,005	20,040	20,047	17,758	17,394
Equity turnover	—	25.59	320.98	25.78	66.16	122.78
Equity turnover %	—	14,012	14,008	13,998	16,641	24,834

10 am 448.2 71 am 448.5 Noon 448.5 4 pm 448.1
2 pm 450.8 3 pm 450.3
Latest Index 01-248 8028
*NUI=6.50.

Base: 100 Govt. Secs. 15/10/28. Bond Int. 1928. Industrial Ind. 1/7/28. Gold Mines 12/9/28. SE Activity July-Dec. 1942.

HIGHS AND LOWS

	1980	Since Completion	June 12	June 11	June 10
Govt. Secs.	68.58	68.05	127.4	40.18	117.8
Fixed Int.	68.61	68.70	127.4	40.18	117.8
Ind. Ord.	448.5	444.6	127.4	40.18	117.8
Gold Mines	277.9	265.6	442.5	45.5	102.1
	(24.8)	(18.6)	(22.6/70)		50.8

S.E. ACTIVITY

	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Govt. Secs.	68.58	68.05	127.4	40.18	117.8	117.8
Fixed Int.	68.61	68.70	127.4	40.18	117.8	117.8
Ind. Ord.	448.5	444.6	127.4	40.18	117.8	117.8
Gold Mines	277.9	265.6	442.5	45.5	102.1	102.1
	(24.8)	(18.6)	(22.6/70)		50.8	50.8

NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1980

	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Govt. Secs.	68.58	68.05	127.4	40.18	117.8	117.8
Fixed Int.	68.61	68.70	127.4	40.18	117.8	117.8
Ind. Ord.	448.5	444.6	127.4	40.18	117.8	117.8
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NEW LOWS (1980)

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	(24.8)	(18.6)	(22.6/70)		50.8	50.8

RISES AND FALLS

	Up	Down	Same
British Funds	82	—	8
Foreign Bonds	11	7	48
Industrial	331	108	855
Financial and Prop.	281	17	203
Others	37	41	77
Total	844	226	1,382

YESTERDAY

	Up	Down	Same
British Funds	82	—	8
Foreign Bonds	11	7	48
Industrial	331	108	855
Financial and Prop.	281	17	203
Others	37	41	77
Total	844	226	1,382

UNIT TRUST SERVICE

	Unit Price	Unit Price	Unit Price	Unit Price	Unit Price	Unit Price
Standard Chartered Int'l. Bd. Fd.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Standard Chartered Int'l. Bd. Fd.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Standard Chartered Int'l. Bd. Fd.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Standard Chartered Int'l. Bd. Fd.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Standard Chartered Int'l. Bd. Fd.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

FT-ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

These indices are the joint compilation of the Financial Times, the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

EQUITY GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS		Thurs., June 12, 1980				Wed. June 11	Tues. June 10	Mon. June 9	Fri. June 6	Year ago (approx.)	
		Index No.	Day's Change %	Est. Earnings YTD (Mil.)	Gross Dom. YTD (% ACT. at 30%)	Est. P/E Ratio (Net)	Index No.	Index No.	Index No.	Index No.	Index No.
1	CAPITAL GOODS (172)	238.18	+0.8	18.44	6.75	6.71	236.22	234.63	231.61	229.82	236.12
2	Building Materials (28)	236.31	+0.7	18.18	6.94	6.78	235.16	233.40	230.66	228.22	230.56
3	Contracting, Construction (27)	247.79	+0.2	26.90	6.96	4.46	243.55	240.37	240.89	237.91	302.54
4	Electricals (16)	131.61	+0.5	13.35	4.00	9.70	132.24	131.19	131.32	131.07	135.82
5	Engineering Contractors (11)	229.32	+0.1	23.61	8.96	5.90	229.05	226.41	225.72	224.36	263.68
6	Mechanical Engineering (74)	199.55	+0.9	20.17	8.26	6.06	198.10	197.80	194.47	192.51	186.79
8	Metals and Metal Forming (16)	155.71	+1.6	22.31	10.51	5.38	153.26	153.01	152.11	150.60	171.17
CONSUMER GOODS											
11	(DURABLE) (49)	210.29	+1.1	15.57	6.04	7.88	207.99	207.64	204.35	202.85	230.34
12	L. Electronics, Radio, TV (14)	307.59	+1.3	33.88	4.39	12.78	306.29	304.89	295.23	295.23	313.86
13	Household Goods (14)	95.35	+1.0	10.01	3.85	94.80	95.92	95.92	95.92	95.92	95.92
14	Motors and Distributors (22)	97.98	+0.4	23.39	12.07	9.89	97.62	96.55	95.43	95.55	117.47
CONSUMER GOODS											
21	(NON DURABLES) (172)	222.03	+0.8	18.65	7.19	6.47	220.25	218.45	215.46	212.72	231.38
22	Beverages (14)	282.33	+0.5	15.40	6.44	7.57	281.67	278.28	273.11	269.44	266.30
23	Wines and Spirits (5)	200.29	+1.4	18.34	6.22	6.77	206.28	202.69	200.02	198.33	200.81
24	Entertainment, Catering (17)	224.09	+0.7	17.07	6.76	6.76	222.32	220.37	217.67	216.07	265.32
25	Food Manufacturers (21)	195.72	+0.6	20.52	7.41	5.74	194.71	194.58	192.78	189.59	215.60
26	Food Retailing (13)	222.16	+0.6	13.21	4.81	8.97	220.12	218.33	216.08	214.99	259.59
27	Newspapers, Publishing (13)	405.61	+0.3	21.92	6.71	6.16	413.72	409.13	408.90	408.81	426.75
28	Packaging and Paper (15)	130.67	+1.0	27.51	9.54	4.21	129.33	128.14	126.35	125.03	132.19
29	Stores (42)	214.82	+0.9	14.33	5.74	8.97	212.90	211.91	209.88	208.49	206.46
30	Textiles (24)	123.04	+2.1	26.48	12.56	6.66	120.49	118.93	117.46	116.97	165.75
31	Tobacco (10)	224.09	+0.7	17.07	10.82	3.98	222.99	220.93	218.44	216.22	235.25
32	Toys and Games (5)	26.25	+0.4	46.69	18.50	2.54	26.37	26.70	27.82	27.02	73.27
33	OTHER GROUPS (99)	208.96	+0.6	17.73	7.34	6.71	207.11	206.18	203.65	201.12	202.64
34	Chemicals (16)	304.61	+0.6	20.58	7.90	5.57	302.77	300.20	296.52	293.25	286.11
35	Pharmaceutical Products (7)	208.37	+0.3	12.38	6.63	10.01	207.65	206.48	199.73	195.82	219.45
36	Office Equipment (6)	109.11	+0.4	19.96	7.60	10.83	107.12	106.05	104.89	103.72	116.75
37	Shipping (10)	225.38	+0.4	13.48	6.72	9.06	223.46	222.57	218.71	216.23	453.57
38	Miscellaneous (60)	220.61	+0.8	17.94	7.21	6.87	218.98	218.23	214.77	213.09	239.73
INDUSTRIAL GROUP (492)											
49	Oil (8)	180.62	+0.7	18.16	7.34	6.87	181.47	180.92	179.27	178.29	266.13
51	Oil (8)	180.62	+0.7	18.16	7.34	6.87	181.47	180.92	179.27	178.29	266.13
59	500 SHARE INDEX	275.05	+0.5	20.44	6.88	5.75	273.77	272.10	264.63	264.81	267.88
61	FINANCIAL GROUP (118)	207.43	+1.4	—	5.92	—	206.57	202.69	200.85	198.26	189.26
62	Bank (6)	226.91	+1.1	40.16	7.09	2.94	224.41	220.84	218.28	215.82	231.32
63	Finance Houses (10)	223.71	+0.5	12.61	5.73	10.83	223.71	222.63	221.63	220.63	267.63
64	Hire Purchase (5)	191.15	+1.5	14.86	6.77	8.74	201.27	200.83	200.27	200.27	144.64
65	Insurance (Life) (10)	190.35	+1.4	—	6.42	—	195.55	194.88	191.51	189.68	153.13
66	Insurance (Composites) (9)	132.20	+1.4	—	8.14	—	130.42	129.11	128.80	128.67	128.11
67	Insurance Brokers (9)	300.95	+0.2	15.43	7.46	8.90	300.48	300.81	301.46	299.11	274.52
68	Marine Insurance (3)	130.65	+1.3	5.76	5.96	3.88	130.65	130.65	130.65	130.65	97.94
69	Property (45)	194.06	+0.3	3.45	1.21	40.08	193.33	193.33	193.33	193.33	277.13
70	Miscellaneous (11)	129.81	+0.4	16.93	6.72	7.50	129.25	129.25	127.78	126.43	120.57
71	Investment Trusts (109)	228.70	+1.4	—	6.02	—	225.57	225.40	221.45	215.95	214.94
81	Mining Finance (4)	195.21	+0.9	13.62	5.05	8.90	193.56	193.94	194.74	191.82	128.75
91	Overseas Traders (19)	383.19	+1.1	13.56	7.07	9.10	379.94	379.94	384.29	384.80	385.80

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TRUSTS**

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Continued on previous page



FINANCIAL TIMES

Friday June 13 1980



Japanese Ministers to stay until election

BY CHARLES SMITH, FAR EAST EDITOR, IN TOKYO

THE JAPANESE Cabinet resigned after a special meeting yesterday following the sudden death of Mr. Masayoshi Ohira, the Prime Minister. Ministers will, however, remain in their posts pending the appointment of a new Prime Minister after the General Election on June 22.

Both the resignations and the retention of ministers are provided for by the constitution. The Acting Prime Minister, Chief Cabinet Secretary Mr. Masayoshi Ito, took over immediately after Mr. Ohira suffered a heart attack in yesterday's early hours.

Mr. Ito said that three Cabinet ministers will represent Japan at the Venice summit. They are: Mr. Saburo Okita, Foreign Minister, Mr. Yoshitake Sasaki, Minister of International Trade and Industry, and Mr. Noboru Takeshita, Minister of Finance.

The idea of sending three senior Ministers in Mr. Ohira's place had been mooted before the Prime Minister's death. Heads of state of other participating countries are expected to agree. However, it is not clear to what extent the three ministers will be allowed to take part in summit discussions.

Campaigning for Japan's General election to the upper and lower houses of the Diet, the Japanese Parliament, continued at full tilt today with no sign that the outcome had been affected by the tragedy.

It had been assumed, even before Mr. Ohira suffered a fatal heart attack, that he would soon have to vacate the premiership for health reasons. His death makes no essential difference to the national political situation, although its shock effect on both the political and business communities cannot be dis-

counted.

Potential successors to Mr. Ohira, who include Mr. Takeo Fukuda, the former Prime Minister and Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone, former Defence Agency Director General, avoided reference to the leadership issue today. They are not expected to show their hands until after the elections are over.

Even then, it is possible that a caretaker Prime Minister may be appointed to serve for the remainder of Mr. Ohira's two-year term as Liberal Democratic Party leader which expires in December.

The chances are not much more than even that the Liberal Democratic Party will be able to retain its overall majority in the lower house of the Diet—the test of the party's ability to govern.

Features, Page 20

Ford alerted to gearbox fault

BY IAN HARGREAVES IN NEW YORK AND JOHN GRIFFITHS IN LONDON

FORD MOTOR company yesterday revealed that an automatic transmission system alleged by a U.S. Government agency to be defective and possibly dangerous had been fitted to all Ford automatic cars built in Europe between 1973 and 1979. The number of cars affected in Europe could be as high as 350,000.

Automatic transmissions are fitted to a far smaller proportion of cars in Europe than in the U.S.—slightly under 10 per cent. Even this is a significantly greater proportion than in 1973, when Ford's Bordeaux plant started producing the C3 automatic gearbox now fitted to all Ford's automatic cars, from the Granada down to the Escort, and which is included in the U.S. action against Ford.

Ford in the U.S. said yesterday that the company would fight to the last against the doubts cast over the transmission system, which has been fitted to 18m vehicles built in the U.S. in the past decade.

Apart from reiterating Detroit's line that "we accept the charges," Ford would not speculate in London on what action the European division might take if a safety hearing in Washington on July 21 went against the company.

Mr. Roger Maugh, director of automotive safety at U.S. Ford, said the conclusions of the

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that there is a defect in the transmissions "is based upon inaccurate and inadequate information."

Ford plans to argue its case at the public hearing in Washington. If it fails to convince the U.S. Department of Transportation, it will be forced to recall the vehicles in the largest product recall in the U.S. motor industry's history.

Such a recall would cost Ford hundreds of millions of dollars in a year when it is expected to lose over \$2bn on its U.S. motor operations and seriously damage its reputation at a time when the image of its small cars is still emerging from the shadows of safety allegations about its Pinto model.

The agency's "initial determination" says that Ford transmissions built between 1973 and 1979 contained a design error which may have been responsible for 6,000 accidents and 98 deaths in the U.S.

The problem, the agency said, was that with the vehicle stationary, the gear lever running on the gear engine on the vehicles sometimes jumped from its "park" position to reverse. Several people have been crushed to death in accidents involving this alleged fault, although Ford maintains that it could only happen if drivers inadequately engaged the "park" selector.

Cabinet to ask MPs to limit pay rise

BY ELINOR GOODMAN, LOBBY STAFF

THE GOVERNMENT is ready to risk a defeat in the Commons by asking MPs to accept a cut in real earnings this year. Ministers have decided that if Lord Boyle's Top Salaries Review Board recommends an unacceptably high topping-up settlement for MPs next month, they should be urged to accept a lower settlement in the wider interests of the Government's anti-inflation policy.

Anything over the 14 per cent recommended by the Clegg Commission for nurses would probably be regarded as too high.

A similarly critical attitude may be taken on the recommendations Lord Boyle is expected to make shortly on the salaries paid to top civil servants and nationalised industry chiefs.

A decision to recommend a reduction in whatever Lord Boyle recommends will infuriate MPs on both sides of the House. But Ministers have decided that it will be better if responsibility for approving an increase, which could amount to as much as 34 per cent, was seen to rest with MPs themselves rather than with the Cabinet.

MPs will receive an increase of £1,275 today, taking their salaries up to £10,725. What is at issue is the topping-up settlement which Lord Boyle is expected to recommend as part of a staged deal agreed last year.

Lord Boyle has not yet submitted his recommendation and it could well be near the 18 per cent he recommended for doctors. This would mean MPs got a compound increase of about 34 per cent at a time when other public sector workers were being asked to limit their wage rises.

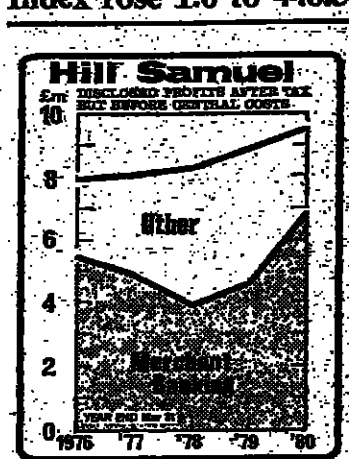
Ministers have decided that this would have a damaging effect on the next pay round. This view has apparently prevailed over the belief of some Ministers that the Government could not go back on its commitment last year to honour the Boyle recommendation.

When the Government receives the report it will probably put it to Parliament with an amendment of its own urging MPs to accept a lower increase. Some Tory MPs will almost certainly refuse to back the Government.

THE LEX COLUMN

Dividend dims at Chloride

Index rose 1.6 to 448.5



Chloride's 34 per cent dividend cut had been fully discounted in the stock market: the shares closed unchanged yesterday at 47p, where the yield is 12½ per cent. A reduction in the payout is certainly in order after a year when before taking account of £2.7m of redundancy costs, profits have fallen from £29m to £21.4m. The second half has brought a 42 per cent slump to £9.8m.

The main explanation is a 12 per cent fall in automotive battery sales in Europe and the U.S., which Chloride puts down to destocking in the distributor network, a mild winter, and drivers' determination to get more out of their batteries as a result of price increases. More consumers apparently are waiting for their battery actually to give up the ghost before buying a new one. Sales in Europe dropped a full 30 per cent in the final quarter, and Chloride does not think that the bottom has yet been reached.

In addition, sharply higher lead prices have helped to push net borrowings up by £20m to £98m, or 78 per cent of shareholdings' funds, and interest costs are three-fifths higher at £12.3m. The figures would have looked even worse but for around £3m of stock profits: the current cost outcome is just £8.1m before tax.

Chloride is confident that demand for automotive batteries will bounce back eventually—maybe at the beginning of 1981—and the current dividend payment is clearly intended to represent a base level. But the payment is covered less than 1½ times by historic cost earnings, and interest costs are only covered 2½ times. With profits under severe pressure in the current half year, there could be a few more nervous months to come.

Hill Samuel

All the recent executive comings and goings at Hill Samuel have emphasised the group's problems, and indeed the results show a marginal decline in disclosed group net profits to £7.89m. Still, there is encouragement in the 51 per cent jump in banking profits. Leading volume has risen, and there have been good results in Australia and South Africa as well as in the UK. At home, Hill Samuel has enough branches with current account balances to have benefited significantly from the endowment effect of high interest rates, while corporate finance fees have been up and

the money book has also contributed usefully.

Elsewhere roughly maintained profits are reported by three divisions: the Nohol Lowndes employee benefit side, the shipping services interests and the investment management operation. On the negative side, however, two problem areas have led to substantial write-offs. Insurance broking shows an after tax loss of over £1.5m, about half of which reflects provisions for reinsurance bad debts, while this division has also required a £1.45m extraordinary provision to cover the move of its administration to Swindon. Eurobond dealing also ran into trouble at the time of the first Volcker package last autumn, and gross losses spread across banking and investment may have approached £1m.

This particular problem will not recur now that Hill Samuel has withdrawn from Eurobond dealing, and the group also claims to have chopped enough costs to pull the insurance broking side round. If all goes according to plan Hill Samuel will achieve a substantial improvement for 1980-81, but after the years of disappointment the stock market is bound to take quite a lot of convincing for the moment the yield at 8½p is still as high as 8.5 per cent.

Northern Foods

The main interest in Northern Foods' interim figures stems from the inclusion of 12 weeks' contribution by Bluebird, the U.S. ham producer whose acquisition has shifted the balance of the group away from milk. Northern is clearly delighted with its contribution of £1.1m after interest costs to

a total pre-tax figure of £14.9m, against £12m, in the six months to March. But for an ill-timed foray into leasing shortly before Bluebird provided a more constructive home for the group's cash, the figure would be £1m higher.

In the UK, a strong performance on the milk manufacturing side has made up for dull conditions in liquid milk and Pork Farms has returned to budget after a weak first quarter. Beer and biscuits have done well compared with the difficult 1978-79 winter, while milling has benefited from the higher flour prices the case business has been difficult, but at least Northern's overall reliance on perishable goods has spared it the stock problems that have troubled other food manufacturers.

The balance sheet now shows debt at 55 per cent of tangible shareholders' funds, a figure which a revaluation of Bluebird's assets, together with negotiations should bring down below 40 per cent over the next year. Capital spending is about to fall, and Northern will be looking to add capacity through further acquisitions. This year the group should be £30m (against £25.5m).

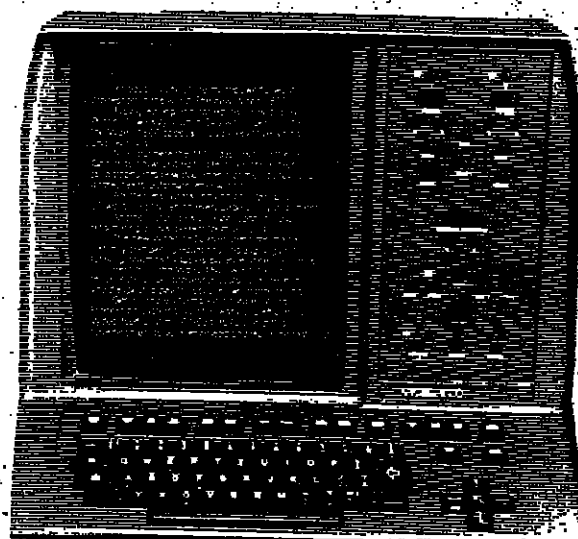
B & C Shipping

The timing could not have been more unfortunate for merging British and Common wealth Shipping's fixed wing interests into Air UK, which has produced £4m of losses for the company after rough break-even. With some improvement on the shipping side, however, pre-tax profits have managed a struggle up 7½ per cent to £28.6m, although the improvement is reduced to 3½ per cent once a surplus on ship sales is stripped out.

Prospects for the current year are brighter, when the losses a Air UK should be cut back, while greater North Sea activity is providing a boost to Bristol Helicopter. The benefits of the buoyant charter rates for product tankers will come through while a fall in interest rates would widen the narrowing gap between interest received and charged. So profits may be in at least a tenth, and at the level the share price, up 3½ yesterday at 300p, produces a prospective p/e of about 8 fully taxed. Though the historical yield at 6½ per cent is in line with the investment trust sector in which many analysts group the company, the discount to asset value, at 50 per cent or so, is nearly double the average.

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Hill Samuel appoints new chief

By Michael Lafferty, Banking Correspondent

SIR ROBERT CLARK is to give up his position as chief executive of Hill Samuel, the merchant banking and financial services group, which yesterday revealed that it had incurred net losses of £3m in its insurance broking subsidiary.

Sir Robert, who is to stay as executive chairman of the group for four years, will be succeeded as chief executive in August by Mr. Christopher Castleman, until recently managing director of Hill Samuel South Africa.

Last month, Hill Samuel said Mr. Castleman, aged 38, would become deputy chief executive of the group in August.

The group's net attributable profits slumped from over £7m to £5m in the year to March, 1980. This was in spite of substantially increased profits from the main merchant banking part of the group, where disclosed net profits are up from £5m to £6.5m.

Hill Samuel's major problem in the past year has been on the insurance broking side, which incurred a net after-tax trading loss of £11m. A large part of this related to bad debts going back many years. In addition, Hill Samuel has had to write off £1.4m as an extraordinary loss in respect of relocation costs at the division. Mr. Victor Wood, who left the group last year, had previously been responsible for this part of Hill Samuel.

Sir Robert said yesterday he was confident the group's main problems had now been solved. "We have cleaned up the stable. We are absolutely determined to make more profits this year and we will," he said.

Sir Robert maintained that it would not be fair to judge his record on Hill Samuel's flat profit record over the past three years, during which he was chief executive. He said that certain problems needed to be tackled when he had taken over, and it had taken time to do that.

Until 1977, Lord Keith, a former chairman of the Rolls-Royce aero-engine group, had been chief executive at Hill Samuel. He remained as the group's non-executive chairman until last month.

Mr. Castleman said yesterday in Johannesburg that his only condition for taking on the job of chief executive had been that Sir Robert would remain as Hill Samuel's executive chairman for a further four years. He said Sir Robert had done a lot of the hard work which had been necessary to reorganise the group.

Results, Page 22

Ban on St. Piran's shares extended

BY REG VAUGHAN

THE STOCK EXCHANGE, in one of its strongest pronouncements, yesterday forbade its members to deal in any business for Mr. Jim Raper, the former Saint Piran chairman, and extended the suspension of dealings in the company's shares indefinitely.

This follows Wednesday's rebuke from the City Takeover Panel, which described Mr. Raper's conduct as "deplorable" and said he "is unfit to be a director of a public company."

The panel has already said that Mr. Raper and three foreign based companies which have built up shareholdings totalling 37 per cent in St. Piran should make a full bid—but this has not been done.

The shares of this tin mining and property company suspended since May 20, are to remain in limbo until and unless Gasco, Mr. Raper's master company either:

● Promises not to use its voting power in St. Piran, or

● Makes a bid, or

● Disposes of a large part of its holding.

Alternatively, the present board, including Mr. Malcolm Stone (the chairman, who is also managing director of Gasco), must vote itself out of office. The Stock Exchange might also change its mind if the Department of Trade investigation, still in progress, justifies a restoration of the listing.

Gasco Investments has already said it would make a general offer if the necessary finance could be raised. Mr. Stone said yesterday that "realistic efforts" were being made but claimed that the actions of the panel would not be helpful to Gasco in raising money.

St. Piran said that it was "very concerned" about the effect of the suspension on its small shareholders. It urged that the quotation be restored pending the DoT report into the affairs of the company.

Chloride dividend cut

CHLORIDE, one of the world's leading manufacturers of rechargeable batteries, has cut its dividend in the face of a collapse in profits from £29m to £18.7m pre-tax for the year to the end of March.

Attributing the fall to the most severe drop in international demand for batteries for 25 years, Sir Alastair Pilkington, the new chairman, announced yesterday that the dividend for the year is to be cut from 6.3p net to 4p "to conserve funds."

Later Mr. John Ray, the chief executive, warned: "I don't believe we have touched bottom yet."

Sales of automotive batteries in Europe and the U.S. dropped by 12 per cent

last year and the trading climate could be worsening, although Chloride claims to have maintained market share.

In the final quarter demand for automotive batteries in Europe slumped by more than 30 per cent, the company says.

One reason for the decline according to Mr. Ray, was that customers were taking more care of their car batteries and using home rechargers.

Overall, the downturn in sales of automotive batteries cost the company £4.5m in operating costs and £2.7m in redundancies. At the same time high interest rates forced interest charges up from £7.6m to £12.3m.

Results, Page 22

Approach to Unicorn revealed

BY RAY MAUGHAN

UNICORN INDUSTRIES, one of the world's leading manufacturers of grinding wheels and other abrasive products, revealed last night that it had received an approach which could lead to an offer for the company. Shareholders were advised to take no action pending a further announcement.

Valued at almost £26m on the Stock Exchange, Unicorn has only one substantial share-

holder, the Kuwait Investment Office, which has controlled a 9.98 per cent stake for the last three years through the Securities Management Trust.

The group's profits fell last year from £7.42m to £5.52m as a result of strikes, which were estimated to have cost £1m, and the interest charges on cash raised to buy out the 50 per cent stake in the Swedish rival Craellus AB.

Continues from Page 1

Europcar bid to be probed

Godfrey Davis in the wake of the Europcar offer but withdrew because it believed this would almost certainly provoke a Monopolies reference. Hertz may now feel that an offer would lose it nothing.

Last night Godfrey Davis said it had not heard from Hertz. Its deal with Europcar would go ahead, subject to Government approval, and the Monopolies Commission would be given the fullest co-operation.

Dealings in Godfrey Davis shares were halted temporarily yesterday at the company's request.

Midland Bank Industrial Investments has already agreed to take a minority stake in the new company which would be called Godfrey Davis-Europcar. Under the deal with Europcar, existing Godfrey Davis shareholders would receive 115p per share for the hire company, the equivalent of £17.4m. The remaining Godfrey Davis activities (car distribution, retailing, long-term lease, caravan sales and rentals) would benefit from a £4.6m dividend payment from the hire activities.

The DoT appears to have been worried by the amount Europcar was prepared to pay. However, Hertz was thought to be willing to offer more.

Part of Europcar's motivation is that it is already the biggest rental organisation in Europe, but its presence in the British market itself—the biggest single European market—is minor.

Suggestions that Europcar might perhaps use Godfrey Davis as a way of boosting Renault sales in Britain were dismissed by the two sides as "commercial suicide."

Weather

UK TODAY
RAIN in most areas, becoming brighter in S.E. England. Sunny in Scotland, except the south. London, S.E. and Cent. S. England, Channels Isles Rain, giving way to showers and bright intervals. Max 19C (66F).

Rest of England, Wales, Isle of Man, Borders, S.W. Scotland, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, N. Ireland. Cloudy with rain, heavy at times. Max 17C (63F).

Elsewhere
Dry. Sunny intervals. Max 16C (61F).

Outlook: Thundery rain, but bright intervals.

WORLDWIDE

	Y'day	midday	Y'day	midday	
	C	F	C	F	
Ajaccio	23	73	L. Pima	20	66
Algiers	28	82	Lisbon	17	63
Ankara	20	68	Locarno	23	72
Athens	17	63	London	21	70
Bahrain	33	91	Luxembg.	21	70
Batavia	21	70	Luzon	43	109
Be'fast	11	52	Madrid	18	64
Belgrad	25	77	Malajra	27	81
Berlin	21	70	Malaga	24	75
Bombay	18	64	Mantua	24	75
Bombay	17	63	M'chstr.	17	63
Blackpt.	17	63	Medline	8	48
Bordx	17	63	Milan	24	75
Boulogne	18	64	Mintreal	11	52
Brisol	18	64	Moscow	22	72
Buenos	22	72	Munich	18	64
Budapest	28	78	Nairobi	22	72
B. Aires	12	54	Naples	28	77
Calcutta	22	72	Norfolk	28	77
Cardiff	16	61	N. York	19	66
Cas'bia	20	68	Nice	21	70
Cebu	21	70	Norwich	21	70
Chicago	22	72	Oslo	15	59
Cologne	22	72	Paris	24	75
Cong'ia	18	61	Prague	24	75
Cork	17	63	Reykjavik	8	48
Dublin	12	54	Rhodes	28	82
D'vinsk	15	58	Rio de J'o	27	81
Edinb.	12	54	Rome	24	75
Faro	21	70	Saborg	28	78
Florence	25	77	Singap.	31	89
Frankf.	23	72	Stockhm.	14	57
Funchal	22	72	Strasbourg	25	77
Geneve	22	72	Sydney	15	59
Glasgow	22	72	Taipei	28	78
G'many	16	61	Tai Aviv	28	78
Helsinki	15	58	Tokyo	26	79
H. Kong	31	89	Toronto	18	64
Innsbruck	28	78	Tunis	28	78
Inverness	11	52	Valencia	21	70
Islam	14	57	Venice	22	72
Istanbul	28	78	Vienna	25	77
Jakarta	28	78	Warsaw	19	66
Jo'burg	15	59	Zurich	24	75

C = Cloudy, F = Fair, R = Rain, S = Sunny.

—Cloudy, —Fair, —Rain, —Sunny.